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WH SMITH
BICENTENARY
16-page
special report

Progressive Democrats set resignation timetable for embattled Irish prime minister

Haughey ready to quit after coalition threat

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey is expected to resign as Irish prime minister next week after his junior coalition partners threatened to bring down the government if he remained at its head.

Mr Haughey was said to have bowed to the inevitable last night after renewed allegations about his part in a phone-tapping scandal a decade ago proved to be one scapegoat too many for his troubled premiership. He is expected to quit after the budget next Wednesday.

The resignation timetable is believed to have been worked out during a day of negotiations between leaders of Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats, the six-strong party that has kept Mr Haughey's party in power since 1989. The PDs later issued a statement saying they would withdraw their support unless Fianna Fail took "the necessary step to restore the authority and effectiveness of the government in the immediate aftermath of budget day".

The alternative was an unwanted general election, two years early. "If the necessary

step isn't taken, then that's it," one Progressive Democrat source said. "We have been in a number of similar occasions like this in the past and we haven't been found wanting yet."

While the government press secretary did not confirm Mr Haughey's intention to quit, other senior sources within Fianna Fail said he would announce his resignation at a meeting of the parliamentary party next Thursday. That meeting is likely to make the first steps towards choosing a new party leader, and Mr Haughey will remain prime minister until a successor is chosen. He is expected to go within a week of the budget.

Mr Haughey, who has led Fianna Fail for 11 years and been Taoiseach since 1987, was said to be determined that his continued leadership should not cause an election. He had hoped to continue in office until the party conference in March and to visit Canada before resigning. But his ministers were said to have told him this would not satisfy the PDs.

Mr Haughey had been called Fianna Fail for his ability to survive even the most serious threats to his position, and only last November he survived a move within Fianna Fail to oust him. But what will almost certainly prove the final blow was dealt on Tuesday when Sean Doherty, a former justice minister in Mr Haughey's 1982-83 administration, claimed for the first time that the Taoiseach had known in detail about an illegal phone-tapping scheme.

Mr Doherty had arranged the bugging of two journalists' telephones in an attempt to track down cabinet leaks in 1982 and, until Tuesday, he took all the blame for the affair, resigning the party whip. But this week he claimed he had personally handed Mr Haughey the transcripts of the reporters



Charles Haughey: resolved to relinquish leadership rather than force a general election two years early

De Lorean suit breaks cabinet secrecy

The government is overriding its 30-year rule in pursuit of damages, Philip Robinson reports

CABINET papers of the past decade relating to discussions on the De Lorean car plant have been released to Arthur Andersen, the accountants, who are defendants in a New York legal action which is being brought by the British government.

The release of the papers of discussions within the Thatcher cabinet has apparently been agreed by John Major, although it breaks the normal conventions of the 30-year rule. Mrs Thatcher is being called to give sworn evidence of her role in the affairs of the De Lorean car company, which collapsed in 1982 after a British government investment of \$64 million.

Her evidence will form part of the defence case of Arthur Andersen, accountants to the sports car makers, who are being sued in New York by Britain for damages which could reach almost \$1 billion.

The former prime minister will be among an estimated 30 politicians and government officials to be interviewed either in New York, or on video in London by Arthur Andersen's New York lawyers, Breed, Abbott and Morgan.

They confirmed last night that Mrs Thatcher will be interviewed as a witness.

It is understood that Mr Major has instructed all his officials to co-operate.

Andersen's lawyers want to explore with Mrs Thatcher why doubts over the De Lorean project, raised by the

Continued on page 20, col 2

Bush is to offer cuts in multiple warhead arms

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Bush is to propose another dramatic reduction in strategic missiles next week, aiming his latest arms control initiative at land-based systems with multiple warheads. The proposals will be made during his State of the Union speech to Congress next Tuesday.

Any suggestion from Mr Bush, however, that submarine-launched missiles should have fewer warheads could force the Britain to review its plans to arm each Trident missile with up to eight warheads.

Last month's US report, prepared by the joint strategic target planning staff advisory group for General Lee Butler, commander-in-chief of US strategic forces and director of nuclear targeting, suggested that submarine-launched ballistic missiles should carry no more than six warheads.

The safety of former Soviet nuclear weapons has become a matter of international concern following the break-up of the Soviet Union, despite firm agreements between the four "nuclear" members of the 11-republic Commonwealth on a single strategic command and control system for

nuclear weapons. Of the four, only Kazakhstan is apparently undecided about whether to opt for nuclear or non-nuclear status in future.

• Washington: James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said the US would provide Air Force planes to fly 54 shipments of emergency medicine and food to the former Soviet republics. He said the first C5 transports would leave Frankfurt on February 10. (AP)

Sevastopol siege, page 9
Anatole Kaletsky, page 14

TOMORROW'S TIMES

SPLIT TIP



"If you take marriage seriously you have to be divorced." Fay Weldon talks to Valerie Grove in the Saturday Review

PARK METER



Moves to change the royal parks have already met fierce resistance. Weekend Times sniffs the air

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Opera singer gives lessons to Welsh rugby fans

By TIM JONES

TIME was when the Welsh rugby team walked on water and the rendering by the fans of the anthem *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* (*Land of My Fathers*) sent shudders down the spine of any team unfortunate enough to face the red dragons in the national stadium at Cardiff.

The massed choir singing the old song, which alludes to bards, blood and heroes, was deemed so intimidating that on their last outing to Cardiff the England team manager arranged for the anthem to be played on the team coach as it crossed the border to lessen the psychological shock of the real thing.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to

performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh lock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said: "We hope everyone will join in for the anthem, though we might get out of beat. Rugby and music are very important to the people of Wales and I hope my contribution will help the team to victory."

Leading article, page 15



Humphreys: more used to a grander stage

Haughey's mantle could pass to the unwilling or unready

BERTIE Ahern, finance minister, has had a glittering career and may well, albeit unwillingly, accept the leadership of his party this year.

Mr Ahern, aged 40, from a working class Dublin background, has already held two big cabinet posts, labour and finance, but has consistently said that he does not wish to take the top job for some years yet. He is an accountant and industrial relations expert who enjoys great popularity with the all important grassroots of Fianna Fáil, among whom his personable and self-evident style has made him many friends.

He was first elected to the Dáil in 1977 and was in the whip's office before becoming party spokesman on youth and then Chief Whip. He took the labour post in 1987, where he established a formidable reputation for ending public sector strikes. He was one of two ministers chosen by Mr Haughey to conduct delicate negotiations with the Progressive Democrats when Fianna Fáil entered its first coalition in 1989.

Mr Ahern is on the liberal wing of the party and Fianna Fáil under his leadership would sit more easily in coalition with either the Labour party or the PDS than under Mr Haughey or the other main candidates. Mr Ahern

Edward Gorman
profiles the four
most likely
candidates to take
on the leadership
of the party should
Charles Haughey
resign next week



Party favourites: the likely successors, from left to right, Albert Reynolds, Ray MacSharry, Bertie Ahern and Mary O'Rourke

has so far stood resolutely by Mr Haughey and it was his decision to back him last autumn that was instrumental in ensuring that Albert Reynolds did not succeed in his attempt to have Mr Haughey removed from the leadership.

An Achilles' heel is his personal life. He left his wife for another woman and he is known to be concerned that the conservative electorate might balk at the idea of a separated man as their prime minister.

Mary O'Rourke, aged 54, currently minister for health, would be the first woman leader of Fianna Fáil and straitened her relationship with Mr Haughey.

Mrs O'Rourke began her career as a secondary school teacher before moving into politics in 1981, when she was elected to the senate. She won her first Dáil seat a year later.

She became education minister in 1987, a position she retained until the autumn

brother, Brian Lenihan, has been one of its leading figures for 30 years. His dismissal by Mr Haughey in December 1990, over allegations that he lied on television during his campaign for president, brought out fierce family loyalty in Mrs O'Rourke and strained her relationship with Mr Haughey.

Mrs O'Rourke is believed to be opposed to divorce or more freely available contraception and regards herself as a liberal Roman Catholic. She is ambitious, forceful and a candidate around whom much of the party could unite.

Her main weakness is her lack of experience, especially on the economy and foreign affairs, but she makes no secret of her ambition to lead

her country and believes she is capable of it.

Ray MacSharry, EC commissioner for agricultural development since 1989, is regarded as the man Mr Haughey would most like to succeed him, but he may not have the chance.

Mr MacSharry was one of the so-called gang of five who nominated Mr Haughey to the Fianna Fáil leadership in 1979, and has been loyal ever since. Mr Haughey is believed to have wanted to lead his party into another general election, allowing Mr MacSharry to return from Europe in triumph, regain his seat in the Dáil and take

over the leadership. A sudden resignation by the incumbent thus appears to rule him out, since he is not due to return to Dublin until December.

Mr MacSharry, aged 53, a teetotaller who is married with six children, is regarded as an old-style generally conservative Fianna Fáil. His skill as a negotiator in Europe, where he has handled tough and exhausting negotiations on the Common Agricultural Policy and trade reform, have enhanced his profile at home. He has benefited from being away during the latest scandals and leadership disputes.

He is a farmer and former

road haulier from Sligo in the North-West, and was elected to the Dáil in 1969. He was deputy prime minister and finance minister in Mr Haughey's 1982 government and finance minister again between 1987 and 1988. He is a self-made man who is regarded as a somewhat cold individual lacking in charisma, but his experience and ability are not in doubt.

Albert Reynolds, former finance minister, aged 56, is the only one of the contenders to have openly attempted to remove Mr Haughey from office, and that may count against him in the long run. Mr Reynolds, from Longford

Ready to quit, page 1
Diary, page 14

Change in poll tax law likely to plug default loopholes

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE home secretary is expected to announce today that the government will change the law to allow computerised poll tax records to be used as evidence that defaulters have not paid.

Kenneth Baker's announcement was pre-empted yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, who said he was changing the law to prevent poll tax defaulters escaping prosecution if their debts were more than two years old.

After announcing on television on Wednesday night that legislation was imminent, Mr Heseltine has taken control of measures to prevent the collapse of the community charge system in England and Wales.

More than 10,000 cases against non-payers have come to a halt in the courts after rulings that computer records were not admissible as evidence of non-payment.

All councils use computers to administer the tax and if the rulings are upheld by the High Court, local authority leaders say that the poll tax will become unenforceable.

The delays caused by the rulings have raised the spectre

of thousands of cases being lost because of a rule that councils have only two years to begin court action against defaulters.

Many of the delayed cases relate to poll tax bills issued in April 1990 and risked being struck out under the two-year rule if the issue had not been resolved by the end of March.

Mr Heseltine said he would use his powers to change the rules by issuing regulations within the next few days increasing the time limit to six years, the same period allowed for councils to collect rate arrears. "We are determined that authorities should be able to enforce against all defaulters," he said. "There will be no amnesty for non-payers."

The task for Mr Baker in framing measures to make computer records admissible is more formidable. Government lawyers have said that a simple change in the law to admit computer records as evidence in poll tax cases would risk invalidating seven million liability orders already granted by the courts.

Attempts to overcome the problem by backdating the legislation are fraught with problems because of the rule

that legislation cannot be retrospective.

Technical legal difficulties are not expected to prevent Mr Baker from announcing later today his intention to change the law.

The scale of poll tax collection problems London was underlined yesterday when the Labour controlled Association of London Authorities published figures showing that one in three Londoners had been summonsed for non-payment.

The association said that 1.8 million summonses had been issued and 1.2 million liability orders obtained by London boroughs since the poll tax was introduced in April 1990.

At a meeting in London the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which represents London and the major cities, called for a government advertising campaign to persuade more people to pay the poll tax.

Rodney Brooke, the association's secretary, warned that non-payment would push up bills by between £20 and £40 a head from April. In some places a surcharge of more than £100 would be added to cover non-collection losses.

Labour considers complaint to BBC

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Labour party is considering a formal complaint to the BBC about its handling of the sensitive pre-election battle over its taxation proposals.

During a discussion on Wednesday night about general election preparations, the shadow cabinet was reported to have taken the unanimous view that the corporation's reporting of the issue had fallen below its usual standards.

David Hill, Labour's communications director, is preparing a detailed report on the way the party's proposals to introduce a new 50p top rate of tax and lift the ceiling on national insurance contributions has been portrayed. It is likely to result in an approach to Sir Michael Charkiewicz, the director-general, from senior party figures including John Cunningham, the campaigns chief, and Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary.

The main complaint levelled by Labour frontbenchers is that the BBC has been obsessed with the effects of Labour's changes on higher earners but has failed to focus sufficiently on the benefits which they will pay for increased pensions and child benefit. There was also anger that the Today programme had wrongly reported the Institute of Fiscal Studies last Friday as suggesting that Labour's plans would hit one in three voters. The error was repeated in full prominence in London's *Evening Standard*.

The establishment of a second "regulator" will reduce the role of the RHAs in relation to the trusts, allowing them to focus on purchasing services and formulating a local health strategy.



Strength from above: Dr David Hope, the Bishop of London, trying out fitness equipment yesterday after opening Cabeline, a £500,000 youth drugs aid project in the East End of London.

Protest greets Twyford Down dig

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PROTESTS from local residents greeted the start of construction work yesterday on the Twyford Down section of the M3 in Hampshire, one of the road projects which the European Environmental Commissioner, Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana, has asked Britain to halt.

Bulldozers churning up a copse south of the Winchester department's determination to ignore Signor di Meana's request and the pleas of campaigners against the scheme. It will destroy one of England's most heavily protected landscapes, carving a 400ft gap in the chalk through Twyford Down and creating a high embankment across the Itchen valley.

Signor Ripa di Meana's request for work to stop while the cases were considered was made personally last October to the transport secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

Richard Stott, the paper's editor, turned down Central Office's "bombshell" depiction of Labour's tax ambitions because it was based on a "lie".

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, suggested that the paper was being hypocritical given its customary regard for accuracy.

Central Office's £100,000 media blitz on Labour's alleged hidden agenda of a 10p in the pound basic rate income tax hike to pay for its £37 billion spending programme appeared in *The Times* and five tabloids — *Today*, *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Express* and *The Star*.

The case for an independent Scotland was given valuable support yesterday when the Scottish edition of *The Sun* newspaper announced its support for the cause of independence as a matter of editorial policy.

Major attacks snobbery against vocational study

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

THE prime minister yesterday highlighted his vision of a classless society by giving personal backing to measures aimed at breaking down barriers between academic and vocational education and by denouncing "old fashioned prejudices and snobberies" against manual work.

John Major threw his weight behind plans to achieve a ten-fold increase in the number of people gaining work-based qualifications and countered Labour attacks by maintaining that ministers were creating the most effective and flexible system of vocational education in the world.

His intervention came as Michael Howard, the employment secretary, heightened the electioneering atmosphere by saying that Labour's policies to introduce a minimum wage and a jobs tax would put 2.25 million people out of work and have an "appalling effect" on Britain's economic performance.

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Viz bails out soccer club

BY JOE JOSEPH

Viz, the comic which put the art in "Johnny Farpants" and other bawdy characters as it became one of Britain's biggest selling magazines, has put up the cash to save a football team from bankruptcy.

Blyth Spartans, a struggling non-league team that flirted briefly with glory by battling to the fifth round of the FA Cup in 1978, will be sponsored by Viz for the next 18 months in return for wearing the Viz logo across their football shirts.

So far Viz's links with soccer have been confined to *Billy the Fish*, the super-goalie star of one of its cartoon strips. But Viz's move into football sponsorship — it is believed to be stumping up £10,000 — could prompt other publications to enter this field. It is possible that *Billy*

the Fish and other Viz stars as well as *Sid the Sexist*, Roger Melle, *The Man on the Telly*, and the sex-mad *Fat Slags* will grace some of the Spartans' home games.

Similarly, *The Times* might consider sponsoring a team that would allow Bernard Levin and Matthew Parris to make guest appearances.

Graham Dury, one of the four editors of the comic, which is based in Newcastle upon Tyne, said yesterday: "The Viz logo was our second choice. We really wanted a slogan that said 'Drink Beer, Smoke Tabs'. I reckon that would look dead good on a football kit. I have never actually seen Blyth Spartans play, but I am sure they are very good. No club in the football league could have as proud a reputation as *Billy the Fish*'s team, *Fulchester United*, but

I think Blyth Spartans run a close second. We heard they were strapped for cash and thought we could help, but we expect free tickets in return."

Blyth Spartans was formed in 1899 and now play in the Northern League. Starved of cash, the club wrote to several local businesses. Viz came up with an offer.

John Brown, who handles the publishing of Viz from London, said: "I can't wait to get up to see Blyth Spartans. We wanted to sponsor a football team and we were looking for the right one. It had to be someone that fitted the bill — a club with a name that sounded right."

Third division Fulham had also approached Viz for sponsorship. However, Brown said *Blyth Spartans* were considered the perfect choice.

Coroner's officer jailed for theft

A coroner's officer was jailed for four months yesterday for stealing stamps from a dead woman (Peter Victor writes).

However, Southwark crown court found Roy Bellamy, coroner's officer for St Pancras, north London, not guilty of taking more than £400 from the house, and of stealing a signed copy of a book from the home of Kenneth Williams, the actor.

Anthony Leonard, for the prosecution, said that Bellamy, of Chalk Farm, north-west London, went to the home of Anne Domelow, aged 80, in Hampstead in August 1990 to seek clues to her next of kin and took stamps.

Bellamy denied taking the stamps and money and said that he had replaced Mr Williams's book at the actor's home in Regent's Park. However, police found identical stamps at Bellamy's home.

Boy died after eating contest

A boy aged six died after choking during a school doughnut-eating contest. Graham Merritt collapsed when he and a friend raced to see who could eat one of the doughnuts the faster.

He was given first aid and taken from Wickham County Infants' school at Littlehampton, West Sussex. He was transferred to the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton, where he was put on a life support machine which doctors switched off on Wednesday. A post mortem examination will be held.

Tottenham riot police bailed

Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Melvin, who led the investigation into the murder of Police Constable Keith Blakelock in the 1985 Tottenham riot, was given unconditional bail yesterday on charges of perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. He was also

Chief Supt Melvin, aged 50, appeared in Bow Street magistrates' court, London, with retired Detective Inspector Maxwell Dingle, who is charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. He was also

In Vogue

Alexandra Shulman is to be the new editor of *Vogue*, Conde Nast's monthly fashion magazine. Ms Shulman, aged 34, moves from the men's magazine *GQ* to take over from Elizabeth Tilberis, who has gone to America to edit *Harper's Bazaar*. Anna Harvey, now deputy editor of *Tatler*, will be her deputy. Michael VerMeulen will move up from deputy editor to run *GQ*.

Explorer quits

The explorer John Blashford-Snell is standing down as leader of Operation Raleigh, the organisation he founded to send young people on overseas adventures. Colonel Blashford-Snell, aged 55, has also left the Royal Engineers after 37 years.

Dogged detective turned Spanish missing person case into 24-year sentence for murder

Husband jailed for bludgeoning wife

By KERRY GILL

THE suspicions and persistence of a Scottish detective led yesterday to a British oil executive being jailed for 24 years for bludgeoning his wife to death and dismembering her body in the bedroom of their Spanish villa.

Stuart Hutchinson, aged 47, was sentenced at Malaga's palace of justice after a two-day trial during which he denied the murder, claiming that his wife Alice had walked out of their home and disappeared.

Mrs Hutchinson, aged 38, was an amateur opera singer and the couple's £188,000 villa near Marbella was called Bel Canto, "beautiful song". It was there that Hutchinson, a tax exile, drained her body of blood and cut it up with a tamon saw, burning some remains and scattering others on dumps and building sites.

The case would have remained a missing person file but for the determination of Detective Superintendent Alex Den of Aberdeen police, and his knowledge of an obscure clause in Scottish criminal legislation which gave him the basis for conducting an investigation abroad.

Mrs Hutchinson's father, Jim Davidson, could not believe that his daughter would vanish without good reason. He told a policeman in his home district of Aberdeen that she was missing. Grampian police, through Interpol, asked the Spanish authorities to open an investi-

gation. There was no reply and the matter was routinely passed to the CID, where it came to the notice of Det Supt Den, then an inspector.

He knew that he had jurisdiction to investigate a suspected killing of a person by a British national abroad, under Section 6 (1) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act of 1975. That effectively allows for a British subject, once extradited, to be punished in a Scottish court for culpable homicide or murder committed abroad.

Det Supt Den discovered that Mr and Mrs Hutchinson could be an explosive couple. Hutchinson was known once to have assaulted his wife, a fact which could enable the officer to establish the malice which would support suspicion of culpable homicide or murder.

He also learnt that Hutchinson

had given conflicting stories about his wife's disappearance in February 1989. He told her cousin, Audrey Sutherland, that Mrs Hutchinson, a soprano, had gone to the Seville opera house. Later he said that she might have gone to an audition at Covent Garden.

There were other suspicious circumstances. Why had Mrs Hutchinson not contacted her two sons by a previous marriage, spoken to her parents, or sent mother's day flowers as usual? Mrs Hutchinson's dog was left at the villa, and so was her jewellery, passport and clothing, which were found by neighbours.

The Crown Office refused to grant extradition papers, but Det Supt Den and Detective Sergeant Gordon Thomson flew to Spain to exchange information. They met inspectors Alfredo Tarrian and Jesus Pena, and cemented a relationship with a bottle of Scotch whisky. The Spanish police, too, became convinced that Mrs Hutchinson had been murdered.

Throughout a police interview Hutchinson, from Hardepool, Cleveland, and who ran a removal business in Spain, remained silent. An interview with a family maid provided a breakthrough: she had found traces of blood in the couple's bedroom. Spanish police drove to Bel Canto in the early hours and woke Hutchinson as he lay in bed with a Dutch model.

Although the bedroom had been freshly painted there were still signs of blood extending six feet up the walls. Eventually Hutchinson confessed to a row with his wife which ended in his battering her to death with a baton kept for burglars. He described how he dragged an unused door into the bedroom on which he lay his



Stuart and Alice Hutchinson on their wedding day: he dismembered her body at their villa

wife's bloody body. As his daughter by his first marriage, then aged 14, slept in another room, he spent the night cutting up the body. He poured the blood into a drain beneath the bedroom wash-basin.

Exhausted, Hutchinson snatched a few hours' sleep before taking a shower and driving his daughter,

Katinka to school. On his return, he burnt pieces of his wife's body in old paint tins and a fire grate before dumping other remains. The court also sentenced Hutchinson to a further three months and a fine of £500 for dismembering the body.

He had been arrested two months after his wife vanished. He repeated his con-

Midlands police call new enquiry

By CRAIG SETON

A NEW investigation is being carried out into allegations of criminal conduct involving detectives from the West Midlands force, it was disclosed yesterday.

Detective Chief Superintendent David Baker, of Leicestershire, has been called in by the West Midlands force to investigate the allegations, which concern officers from D division, based in north Birmingham. His enquiry is being supervised by the Police Complaints Authority.

The allegations follow an unconnected undercover surveillance operation by West Midlands police that allegedly revealed a suspicious relationship between two detectives and a suspected criminal. They are not connected to the two-year investigation by West Yorkshire police into the former West Midlands serious crime squad, which was disbanded in August 1989 amid claims that officers had fabricated confessions.

Superintendent Ray Starkey, of West Midlands, confirmed yesterday that a new investigation was under way, but no other details were given and it has not been disclosed whether any detectives have been suspended. It was understood yesterday that the enquiry could involve allegations against more than two officers.

Karamjit Singh, an officer with the complaints authority, is supervising the investigation and is expected to meet Det Chief Supt Baker in Birmingham today to discuss the scope of the enquiry. It comes less than three months after the PCA released a critical report on the investigation into the serious crime squad, which concluded that the unit had not been subject to proper management control.

Mr Justice Kennedy ruled in the High Court yesterday that a preliminary report on the serious crime squad by Donald Shaw, an assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, was confidential and must not be made public. The West Midlands police authority and Ronald Hadfield, chief constable, were granted an injunction preventing Walsall borough council from publishing the document and three others.

Fist fight gave man Aids virus

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FIGHT at a wedding reception resulted in one man infecting another with the Aids virus, according to doctors reporting in *The Lancet* today. The incident shows that the virus can be transmitted by blood contact during physical violence.

Both men — an intruder and an invited guest — bled profusely from face injuries sustained in the "vigorous fist fight", and the guest was admitted to hospital ten days later with nausea, diarrhoea and a rash. He was treated for a viral infection, and discharged two weeks later.

Doctors learnt that the intruder was HIV-positive. He has since died. Last November, more than two years after the fight, the guest was found also to have HIV when he went to give blood. He had been married for 17 years and there was no evidence that he might have become infected through homosexual contact, drug abuse or contact with prostitutes.

Peter Morgan-Capner, consultant virologist at the Royal Preston hospital, Lancashire, and doctor from Guy's hospital, London, conclude that the man was infected during the fight. "This is the only case we know of in Britain in which HIV was transmitted in this way," Dr Morgan-Capner said yesterday. "It clearly demonstrates that the virus can be contracted during a fight in which there is bloodshed. Although this must be extraordinarily rare, the general spread of infection suggests it will occur more often in the future."

He added that the case showed that the blood transfusion service's screening system was effective. Apart from heterosexual intercourse, blood-to-blood transmission is the most important means of HIV spread worldwide.

Study shows cancer link among nuclear workers

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

OCCUPATIONAL exposure to radiation can cause cancer, the largest ever study of nuclear workers has shown. A clear link has been established between deaths from leukaemia and low doses of radiation, with risks rising steadily as dose increases.

The study, by the National Radiological Protection Board, has also shown a link between radiation dose and the death rate from all cancers, although evidence is far less clear than for leukaemia.

The board's figures suggest that the limits on radiation

exposure set by the International Commission on Radiological Protection are too high by a factor of about two. Dr Roger Clarke, director of the NRPB, said yesterday that it was too soon to draw this conclusion, because the data were not yet comprehensive enough to be certain of the result. The range of potential error was too wide to conclude that the commission was wrong, he said.

Critics of the nuclear industry have seized on the figures. Friends of the Earth accused the NRPB of "gambling with

Forgotten play is given an encore

By SIMON TAIT ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A FORGOTTEN play by a leading Shakespearean actor has been rediscovered and will be given its first performance for more than 300 years.

A Woman is a Weathercock is one of two plays known to have been written by Nathan Field, but it has not been performed since 1667. The play is to be performed next month at the Pentameters Theatre in Hampstead.

Field, born in 1587, was the son of a parson and ran away — or may have been kidnapped — to be an actor when he was 13. He became one of the leading portrayers of female roles in an age when there were no actresses and is reputed to have played Desdemona at the Globe Theatre, London. He is named as a principal actor in the first folio of Shakespeare's works of 1623.

His writing has been ignored, however, and in the early 19th century *A Woman is a Weathercock* was attributed to Sheridan. It is a rioting comedy whose theme is how affections change, written when Field was 22 and performed before James I in the winter of 1609-10.

It will be directed by Graham Wates, who was re-

searching the life of Field at Dulwich College last year when Jan Piggott, the college archivist, showed him a copy of the play which was in a bundle of Victorian books bought from a dealer.

Arts, page 12

Field: leading portrayer of women's roles

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Arts, page 12

When a woman's age is no secret

By JOHN YOUNG

A FORMER policewoman found herself in trouble with the law yesterday for refusing to disclose her age to a male officer 21 years her junior.

Clare Harrison, who served for five years with the Durham force in the 1950s, was stopped by PC Karl Horowitz in Stockton-on-Tees on October 10 for not wearing a seat belt while driving her car.

Yesterday she told Teesside magistrates' court that she was 55 but that she had refused to disclose the fact to PC Horowitz.

"I said that I was in the interesting age of some-



Harrison: "Between 25 and death"

where between 25 and death" she said. "I found his manner extremely of-

fensive and high-handed. I had committed a motoring offence and not a felony. I cannot believe that women are being raped in the streets and I am being brought here for an offence of refusing to give my date of birth."

Peter Kilgour, for the prosecution, said that Mrs Harrison was not carrying a driving licence and that PC Horowitz had wanted to know her date of birth to check if she was entitled to drive. She had replied: "It must be the way they train you these days."

Mrs Harrison suffered another blow yesterday. When she left the court she found a £25 fixed penalty ticket on her car for illegal parking.

Birdspotter raised IRA alert

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A NATURALIST yesterday described how he came across Nessian Quinlivan, one of the IRA suspects who escaped from Brixton prison last year, posing as a birdwatcher close to a Royal Marine training ground in Devon a few months before his arrest.

Trevor Bartlett told a jury at the Central Criminal Court that he saw Quinlivan and a second Irishman three times

on Bickton Common, Devon, in June 1990. His suspicions grew as the men were either in the wrong place to spot birds or without their equipment. He said that he saw the men focusing their binoculars on the Royal Marine training ground near by. He raised the alarm and later identified Quinlivan after his arrest in October 1990.

Mr Bartlett was giving evi-

dence on the second day of the trial of William McKane, aged 24, from northwest London, who is accused on three counts with Quinlivan and Pearse McAuley, the second escaper from Brixton. Mr McKane denies conspiracy to murder Sir Charles Tidbury and others; conspiracy to cause explosions and possession of firearms.

The trial continues today.

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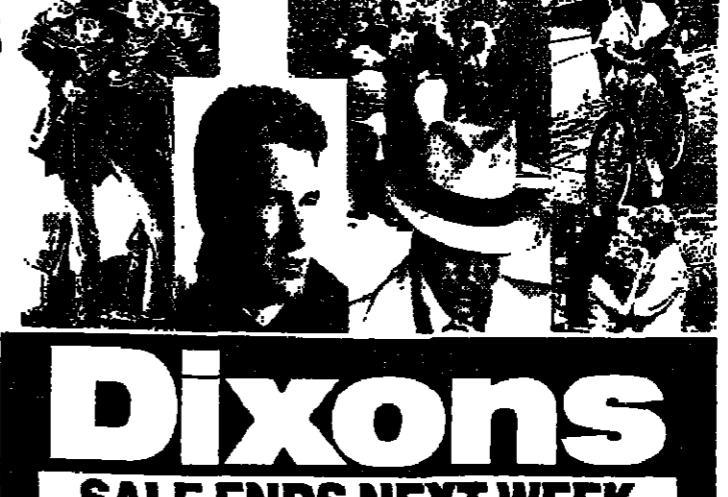
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7	Amicus	570.2
8	British Insurance	469.0
9	Sun Life Assurance	400.0
10	London Life	395.7
11	Leeds Life	370.0
12	London Life	360.0
13	Alberta	340.0
14	Sea Life	330.0
15	Direct	320.0
16	Abey	310.0
17	Sun Life Assurance	290.0
18	Prudential	245.7
19	General Investors	230.0
20	TSB	210.0
21	Scottish Widows	205.0
22	Hill Samuel	190.0
23	Confidence Investors	185.0
24	Prudential Trust	180.0
25	M&G	166.0
26	Friends Provident	164.0
27	Prudential	152.0
28	Scotlife Mutual	143.0
29	Scotish Widows	121.0
30	Sun Alliance	510.4
31	Scotlife Assurance	234.5
32	NPI	319.3
33	Laurentian	199.1
34	GRF	163.9
35	Manulife	398.7
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Immigration agency found guilty of racial bias

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN IMMIGRANT advice agency agreed yesterday to pay £11,000 damages to a senior employee after an industrial tribunal found it guilty of racial discrimination.

The move by the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service came less than 24 hours after the resignation of its director at the end of a stormy resumed annual meeting at which he narrowly lost a vote of confidence.

The tribunal awarded the

damages to Mr Yasmin, a Ghanaian educated at Oxford, after finding that he had not been appointed deputy director of the organisation because of his race. The job went instead to Shamsuddin Choudhury from Bangladesh.

During a tribunal hearing last year, evidence was presented on behalf of Mr Yasmin, a senior counsellor with the advisory service, alleging that procedures were discriminatory and that an interview question to the successful Asian candidate had been planted.

Paul Nichols, the solicitor for Mr Yasmin, said: "It is deeply regrettable that an organisation that should be providing an example to others should have allowed itself to get into this situation." He urged the service, which receives £1.7 million Home Office funding, to adopt an equal opportunity policy within three months and to review its recruitment and promotion systems.

The government has become so concerned at ethnic inflighting on the 13-strong executive that it has called on the advisory service to adopt a new constitution and is reviewing the conditions under which it funds the organisation. Earlier this week, the service was stripped of its responsibility for the legal protection of asylum seekers.

Peter Lloyd, the immigration minister, has told the service to alter its constitution to make it more representative of ethnic minorities, to allow the Home Office representative observer status at executive and annual meetings, to remove from office people with a financial interest in immigration and to prevent executive members from interfering in day to day management of the organisation.

Joey might have been frightened by a noise, or car headlights flashing through the window. African Greys are susceptible to shock.

After a two-hour hearing in chambers, the judge ruled against the claim for £153 compensation.

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After the hearing, Mr Marks said that he had suggested to the couple that they select another parrot at cost price, £100, but they declined.

Plea fails over dead parrot

By BILL FROST

A COUPLE whose pet died ten days after being bought from a pet shop lost their claim for compensation yesterday in a case reminiscent of a 'Monty Python' sketch.

Mary and John Trebil of Truro, Cornwall, owners of Joey, the eight-month-old African Grey, told Truro county court: "She must have died during the night. Joey was on her perch at the bottom of the cage."

They complained to Graham Marks, the pet shop owner, and asked for their money back. A post mortem examination found that Joey died from a fungal disease.

Mr Marks said: "I know Joey was healthy when she left us, but it is possible the bird could have died from a fungal disease.

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City air 'breaks safety limits'

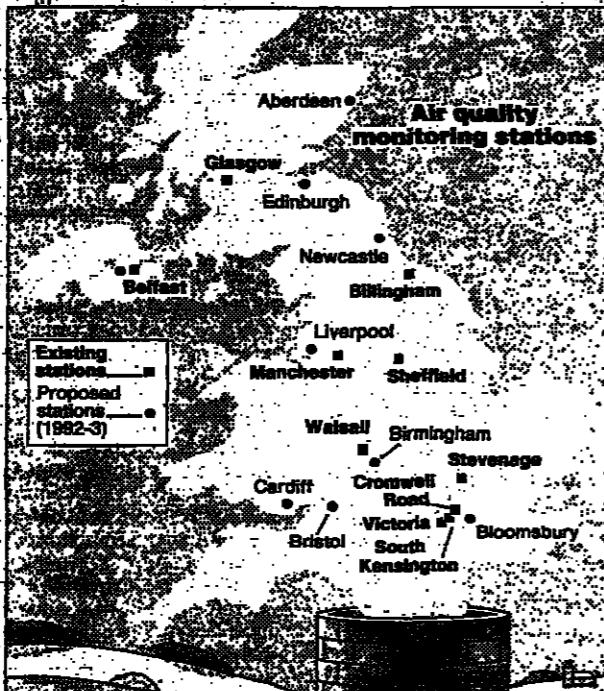
By PAUL WILKINSON

AIR in four of Britain's cities is so badly polluted that it breaks European Commission safety levels, Friends of the Earth said yesterday. Average nitrogen dioxide levels in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Cardiff exceed the EC safety limit of 40 parts per billion, according to a survey by the environmental pressure group.

Conditions in Sheffield, Glasgow, Bristol, Bradford and Farham, Surrey, are little better and need careful monitoring, according to the survey, carried out over Christmas and the new year.

Details of the survey, for BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme were released yesterday as David Trippier, the environment minister, launched a £3 million extension to the government's air pollution monitoring system. Mr Trippier said the survey was "cheap and cheerful" and not sufficiently authoritative even though the results were analysed at the government's Harwell laboratories.

Ten environment department stations already sample atmospheric conditions. Their readings are used for



short term pollution warnings, particularly of vehicle exhausts, and also help scientists to trace the effectiveness of long term measures to improve air quality.

In London yesterday, Mr Trippier inaugurated the capital's fourth site and the first

of a batch of more sophisticated units. By the end of the year he expects five more in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Newcastle. Extra sites at Liverpool, Bristol and Aberdeen will open early next year and by 1995 there will be 24.

Canny farmer plots floral hereafter

By KERRY GILL

FOR years, Ian Alcock dreaded the thought of being buried in an official cemetery, a practice that he considered morbid and exorbitantly expensive.

As he grew older Mr Alcock, aged 56, and his wife Alison began to look favourably on a wildflower meadow within a site of scientific interest overlooking his 500-acre farm on Royal Deeside. The meadow would be a 'delightful place to be interred beside' Mrs Alcock when the day of reckoning arrived.

Yesterday, Kincaid and Deeside district council, after consulting the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland, gave permission for the meadow

to be turned into a private burial ground. There are no plans to have the plot consecrated, but Mr Alcock said:

"Over the years the church has come to people into thinking they should be buried in consecrated ground, which is not true. And I object to the undertakers 'carpet' rubbing their hands when somebody dies. A thousand pounds is nothing these days."

He also denied that his plans to inter his wife were morbid. Using his own mechanical digger, Mr Alcock believes that he can cut the cost to around £28, the price of a cheap plywood coffin.

"If my wife goes first I can operate the digger," he said. "If I go first, I have left her a list of neighbours who have diggers. The ridiculous thing is

that when one of my cows dies I can go ahead and bury it, but I need planning permission to bury my wife who is only a third of the size. When I die I would much rather lie in my own bit of ground than be lined up in a cemetery with a row of people I don't know."

Mr Alcock insisted that his wife was in total accord with his views. The burial ground must be created within five years after which the Alcocks must re-apply, unless the Great Reaper sends for either of them first. Any fencing or headstones would need separate permission, but Mr Alcock said that he had no intention of running the meadow except to plant a tree or place a small boulder on the spot where he and his wife lie.



Race tracks: Mike Bradbury, a competitor in this winter's British husky team races, training in the Black Mountains of Wales. Although practising in snow gives husky racing the authentic touch, the competition is usually held on hard ground with lightweight wheeled rigs [Alix Ramsay writes].

This week the six-dog race, held in Loch Ard forest in Scotland's Central region, was won by John Coyle

of Scotland. Eighty-five mushers and their huskies competed over a flat eight-mile course, with some teams reaching 25mph. The fourth race in the series will be held in Kielder forest, Northumberland, on February 15.

Britain has become one of the leading countries in racing on dry ground and specialises in sprint races. With about 150 teams in competition, the sport is growing

fast here, especially in Scotland, where the weather and terrain are more suited to a sport normally associated with Alaska and Canada.

The Siberian huskies were originally bred for speed, the theory being that a large team of light dogs would not fall through the pack ice as a small group of heavy dogs would.

"Musher" is now a misnomer. Nobody yells "Mush!" at their dogs any more, a word which was probably a

corruption of *marcher*, the command which French prospectors gave their dogs in the days of the gold rush.

The organiser of the Loch Ard race was Ross Goldie. He first bought a husky seven years ago and now, with ten dogs, he and his wife give lectures on working and racing teams. "The appeal of the sport is the animals themselves," he said. "The racing is an additional attraction."

Farms seek £30m landscape cash

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 1,200 farmers have applied for grants to conserve and restore threatened landscapes under a countryside chalk and limestone grassland, lowland heath, grazing marshes, water meadows and other wetlands, coastal vegetation and uplands.

All these landscapes have been severely damaged by ploughing and draining uncultivated land and by heavily subsidised, intensive agriculture that has led to overgrazing.

The highest payments are for farmers who not merely preserve such landscapes but restore them, for example, by letting arable fields revert to pasture, heath, heather moorland or hay meadows, or by leaving swaths of untilled land along cliff-tops.

There are payments for restoring such traditional features as dry-stone walls, hedgerows, reed beds and pollarded willows. Farmers qualify for an extra £20 an acre if they allow the public on to their land.

Sir John said that the commission would soon announce plans to extend the grants to "green margins": areas on the fringes of towns and cities preserved from development by green-belt controls but often allowed to fall into a semi-derelict state. Michael Kirby, the commission's director of operations, said: "Government policy has been successful in checking urban sprawl, but little attention has been given to positive exploitation of the recreational possibilities of areas of land on city fringes."

Friends of the Earth welcomed the cash increase but said that the proposed expenditure was tiny when compared with the £1,600 million spent every year on subsidising agricultural production. Robin Maynard, its countryside campaigner, said: "It is hard to take the government's commitment seriously when its main answer to agricultural overproduction is still the sterile set-aside scheme which simply pays farmers to leave their land idle."

Polio caught from nappy

A MAN has been paralysed after contracting polio from the nappy of his niece days after the baby was inoculated against the disease.

The man, aged 48, who has not been named, was taken to Southampton general hospital with progressive paralysis after his symptoms. He is receiving constant treatment in the neurological unit.

The man, who is understood not to have been inoculated against polio as a child, was admitted on November 28 but details of his case have only just been disclosed. He has since developed paralysis of the lungs and has been placed on a ventilator.

Martin Wale, a consultant in communicable diseases at the hospital and who is caring for the man, said that there was no specific treatment available. "It is literally a one in three million chance that he contracted polio. The chance is so remote it is almost indescribable. It must be stressed that it is one of the

safest of all methods of vaccine."

Polio attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

Seven million doses of the polio vaccine are given in sugar every year in the United Kingdom and it is seen as one of the safest inoculations.

Specialists have urged parents to continue having their children immunised.

The health department said that in 1989, the latest year for which figures are available, only one case of polio was recorded in Britain.

Foul play

A tractor-driving joyrider caused up to £20,000 of damage to Romsey golf course, Hampshire, when he churned up the 11th green and damaged two fairways.

Jolly good

Michael McCarthy, aged 43, a bistro owner of Mossley, Greater Manchester, has been chosen as the voice of the laughing man figure on Blackpool pleasure beach.

Body found

Police are trying to identify a dead man found stuck in a Thames mud bank under Southwark Bridge.



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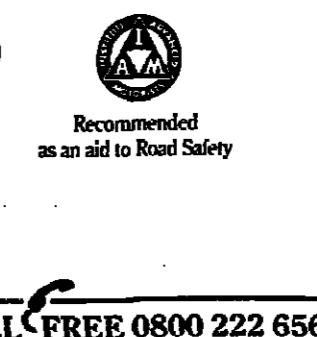
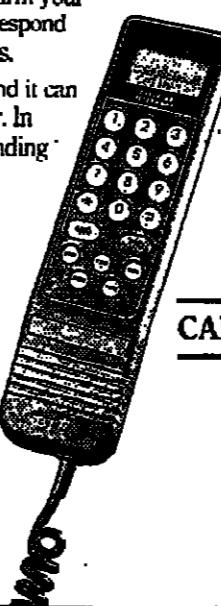
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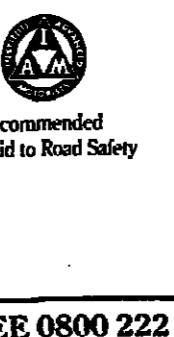


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Speaker separates warring parties

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

BERNARD Weatherill, the Speaker, yesterday warned MPs of the growing public distaste for the electioneering which is disfiguring Commons proceedings.

In a clear rebuke to Tory MPs who lob electioneering questions to the prime minister, Mr Weatherill warned them in advance not to ask Mr Major to comment on the policies of other parties for which he was not responsible. Tory MPs have counter-charged that Labour whips have been involved in organising programmed barracking of ministers, and earlier yesterday Mr Weatherill had to appeal for "moderation in language".

At a morning press conference Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, had complained of the country being engulfed by a crime wave and promised that Labour would increase the number of police, paying for them from within the existing budget by ceasing to send to prison "people who shouldn't be there".

At Home Office question

time John Patten, the minister of state, accused the Opposition of proposing "to empty our prisons to pay for more police" — that coming from a Labour party which in 1979 left the police force of this country 8,000 under strength". After Mr Patten had said that being "assaulted" by Mr Hattersley was like being attacked by a bread and butter pudding, Mr Weatherill called for moderate language "since we have all got to live with each other for the next few months in an electioneering atmosphere".

But the partisan exchanges continued when the next week's business was discussed. MPs have noted that these weekly sessions are regularly included in the television coverage of the prime minister's Thursday questions and Tory MPs used them yet again to draw attention to Labour's tax policies.

This drew protests from Dr Jack Cunningham, who is both shadow leader of the Commons and Labour's campaign co-ordinator, that the "premeditated dishonesty" of the story a "malicious lie".

Conservative Central Office should not be permitted to be read into Hansard's reports of Commons proceedings.

After the charge of organised Labour barracking by Tory MP Robert Hughes, the Speaker said that the bad behaviour was coming from both sides and giving him some difficulty in defending MPs against the public who write in to complain.

Nothing stopped the daily barrage inside and outside the chamber. After Neil Kinnock's prediction in a *Financial Times* interview that Labour would win the election with an overall majority of 20 seats, Chris Patten, the Conservative chairman, refused to give his own precise forecast but emphasised: "We will win it with a good enough majority to ensure Britain is well governed in the 1990s."

Dr Cunningham yesterday denied "absolutely false" reports that Mr Kinnock and his shadow chancellor John Smith were split over National Insurance changes while Mr Hattersley called the story a "malicious lie".

Ministers turn on the charm for children

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are divided over how to reinforce the Tory claim to be the party of the family. Although extra help for childcare costs will be a centrepiece of the Budget, no agreement has yet been reached on whether to extend tax relief on childcare, to raise child benefit or to direct more cash to those on low incomes.

Ministers have been actively lobbied by professional women who are pressing for an extension on tax relief on workplace nurseries to cover provision not located on company premises. Angela Rumbold, chairman of the ministerial group on women, and Gillian Shephard, the deputy chairman, are understood to favour the scheme. Although Norman Lamont is expected to confirm a pledge by Tony Newton, the social security secretary, that it will be introduced in the Budget, merely extending a tax change introduced by John Major when he was Chancellor in 1990.

Some government advisers are now arguing that this would not be the best way of targeting mothers who are most in need of extra help. Under a scheme to extend tax relief for working mothers, two-earner families who probably need the help least would benefit most, and prosperous families would gain at the expense of the poor.

Some ministers argue that the Tories should be supporting women who choose not to go to work, as well as those who do. One way of helping all mothers would be to raise child benefit. If increases were confined to either the eldest child or to children aged three and four, the government could still argue that it was helping families with childcare costs.

After four years of uncertainty over whether child benefit would widen on the vine, the prime minister has made it clear that he supports the scheme. Although Norman Lamont is expected to confirm a pledge by Tony Newton, the social security secretary, that it will be introduced in the Budget, merely extending a tax change introduced by John Major when he was Chancellor in 1990.

Child benefit now goes to nearly seven million families with 12.3 million children, at a cost of £5.3 billion



Women's work: Angela Rumbold is said to favour tax relief for nursery care.

£9.25 for the eldest child and £7.50 for subsequent children. This April benefit will rise again to £9.65 and £7.80.

Child benefit now goes to nearly seven million families with 12.3 million children, at a cost of £5.3 billion

which goes to the unemployed. Under both social security benefits families get less for children under 11. A working family with a child under 11 is entitled to a maximum of £38.30 a week for the adult credit, plus £9.70 for the child. The means-tested family credit scheme costs £484 million and covers 315,000 families. Income support goes to 4.2 million families and costs £8.54 billion. All families get an extra £7.95 a week. Under this option John Major could redress criticism that the gap between the rich and the poor widened considerably under 11 years of Thatcherism.

One or two of these options could be introduced in the Budget on March 10. However, under all the proposals except for extending tax relief, there is no guarantee that money will be spent on childcare.

Another idea being floated is to ensure that money is earmarked for child support by using a voucher scheme. Mothers would apply for a voucher, say at the post office, to go towards childcare costs. The voucher could then be put towards costs of a registered nursery or childminder.

Labour revises pledge on taxes

By PETER MULLAGAN

LABOUR last night qualified its pledge that no one earning less than £21,000 a year would lose under the plan to remove the national insurance upper earnings limit.

Michael Meacher, the shadow social security secretary, conceded in the Commons that some people on lower salaries who earn bonuses, overtime or commissions, would be affected. Responding to taunts about the value of the pledge, he said: "It is a guarantee that all of those whose normal pay is at that level will not have to pay more."

He said the qualification was a "tiny little discrepancy" which would bear on "a few dozen, maybe a few hundred" people. Mr Meacher was responding to a challenge after saying Labour would not seek contributions to pay for its spending programme "from anyone earning less than £21,000 a year or £405 a week".

The admission was seized on by Tony Newton, the social security secretary, who said that a great many more than a few dozen people would be hit by the proposal if their weekly income went over the limit, at which national insurance is activated.

The exchanges took place during a debate on poverty in which Labour accused the government of wilfully impoverishing the poorer part of the population and claimed that more than ten million people live below the poverty line.

Mr Meacher said the Tories were ignoring the beneficial effect Labour's proposals — to boost pensions and child benefit — would have on the poor.

Defending the government's record, Mr Newton was sharply challenged when he claimed support from the social security select committee. Frank Field, the committee chairman, accused him of using "highly selective quotations" from a committee report to argue that income increases had been seen at all levels. Despite repeated challenges, Mr Newton refused to accept a finding by the committee that the smallest increase had gone to the poor.

Mr Field said that some of his constituents were without hope because of the policies pursued by ministers. "While the average of living standards have increased, under the stewardship of this government, the poor have seen the very smallest increase," he said.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Baker to tackle car crime

A £5 million campaign against car crime is to be launched on February 11 with the support of manufacturers and big insurance companies, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, announced during question time.

The government had urged car makers to fit deadlocks, immobilisation devices and visible identification numbers, he said.

Mr Baker, who has met car manufacturers three times since December, added that when he first met them they did not seem to take the prevention of car crime very seriously. Now they were much more prepared to make cars more secure.

Bills split

The Local Government Finance Bill, which replaces the poll tax with the council tax, will allow householders to pay the tax in ten instalments. Robert Key, an environment minister, said in a written reply. Councils will also be able to let tenants pay the tax with their rents weekly or fortnightly.

Bentley case



John Patten, a Home Office minister, said in a written reply that he has now received the police report on the Derek Bentley case and hoped to decide soon whether any action was appropriate. Bentley (above) was hanged for the murder of a police officer but his accomplice, Christopher Craig, who was too young to hang, has cast doubt on the correctness of the conviction.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Traffic Calming Bill and Freedom of Information Bill, second readings.

Next week's business

THE main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Northern Ireland electricity orders. Tuesday: Prison Security Bill, remaining stages. Wednesday: Education (Schools) Bill, remaining stages. Thursday: Revenue support grant orders for England and for Wales. Friday: Private members' medicinal products, prescription by nurses etc bill and Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, second readings.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, third day. Tuesday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, fourth day. Wednesday: Debates on Wales and on the challenges facing the UN secretary-general. Thursday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, fifth day. Friday: Coal Industry Bill, second reading. Osteopatia Bill, second reading.

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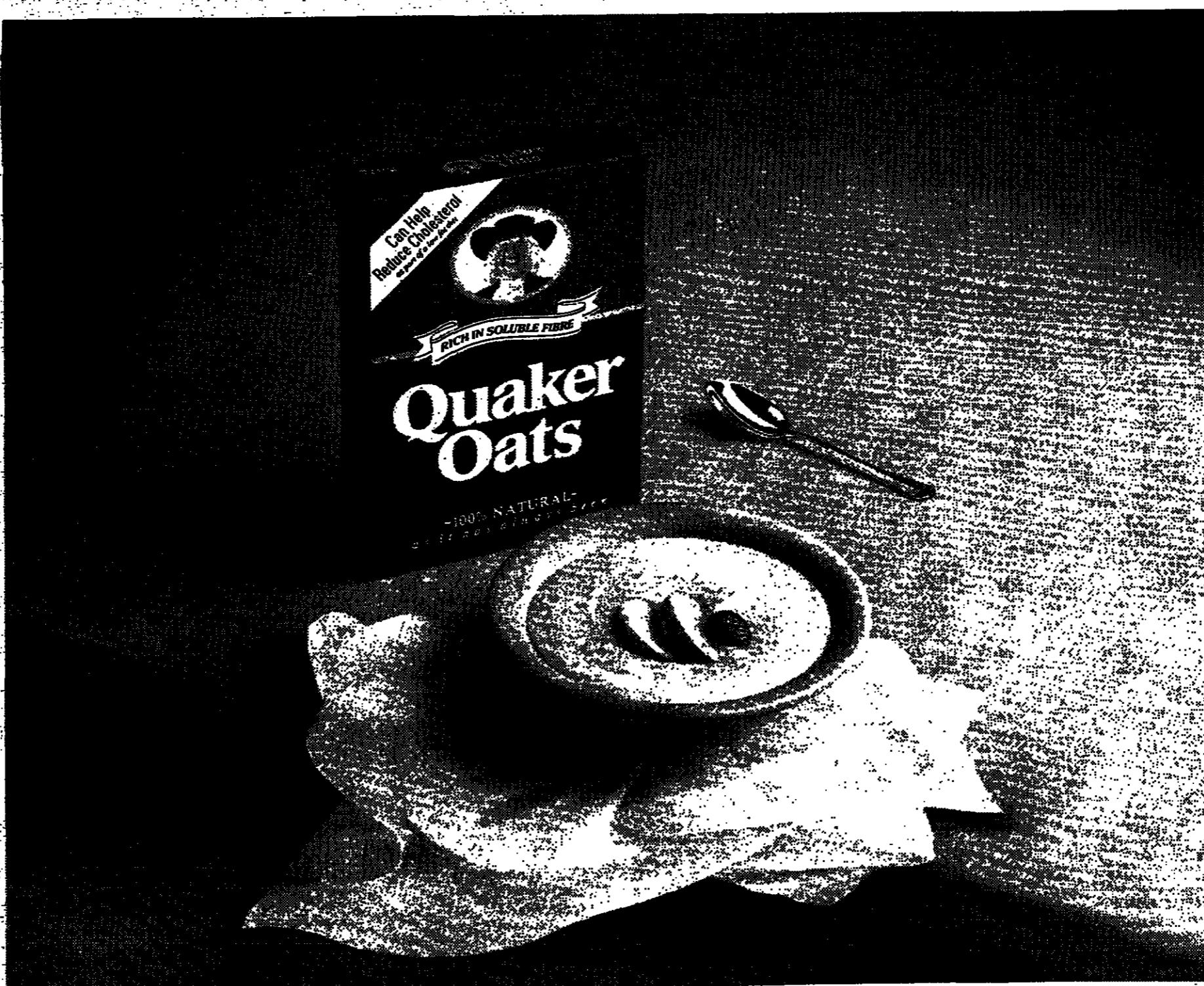
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Soviet admirals resist Ukraine in siege of Sevastopol



Kravchuk: fighting for control of the fleet

WHEN Tolstoy described Sevastopol harbour in 1854, with the city under Anglo-French siege during the Crimean War, he spoke of the "noisy jostle of soldiers in grey, sailors in black and women in all sorts of colours".

The sailors in their black and gold uniforms and the women are still there. But the great Black Sea fleet they belong to is demoralised, with many sailors resisting the Ukrainian takeover.

Sevastopol and the Crimea have belonged to a series of European empires over the centuries, but many of the citizens consider themselves, and the fleet, thoroughly Russian.

The fleet accounts for a quarter of the former Soviet navy's firepower. "I will not sign the Ukrainian oath. The

Control of the Black Sea fleet has become a test of Russia's ambitions and Ukraine's will to break Moscow's dominance, Robert Seely writes from Sevastopol

fleet is a unitary system and you cannot take it apart," Captain Andrei Grachov, spokesman for the fleet's commander, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, said. The admirals refusal to take orders from Ukraine's defence ministry and his instructions to cut military communications between the fleet and Kiev have won him popularity in Russia. Senior officers at the base talk of their motherland, in the shape of a Russian-dominated Soviet Union, being "taken from us".

Sevastopol is used to dealing with sieges: its place as "the pride of Russia" is based on heroic defences. Naval heroes on plinths throughout the city bear witness to Sevastopol's role in tsarist and Soviet military history.

President Kravchuk of Ukraine fired the first salvo in the battle for the fleet over a month ago when he declared that Ukraine, as a "naval power", should have the right to at least part of the fleet's 46 warships and 28 submarines. The fleet commander's refusal to acquiesce to Ukrainian requests is supported by

many of the Crimea's political leaders. Yesterday, Yuri Mishkov, the Crimea's supreme soviet deputy, and other pro-Russian activists began collecting the 180,000 signatures needed under Crimean law to call a referendum on the peninsula's independence from Ukraine.

If they succeed, the result will muddy an already complex problem. While the Crimea remains part of Ukraine, the republic's claim on the fleet, backed by its funding and the fact that conscripts will be supplied only from Ukraine, is strong. If the Crimean autonomous republic is lost, so is Ukraine's trump card in its battle to secure control of much of the navy.

Ukrainian officers in the fleet, who make up 30 per cent of its total, complain quietly of job harassment if they support the Ukrainian oath openly. "Many officer are scared for their future careers. They are worried they may lose housing and other benefits," said Captain Nikolai Khuk. Three weeks before last year's coup, Captain Khuk received a letter threatening him with dismissal for "anti-constitutional" activities in his support for an independent Ukraine.

Mr Mishkov, however, speaks of the "threat to Europe" from a nationalistic Ukraine. A free Crimea, he said, would give the use of the Black Sea fleet solely to Russia. "The fleet is Russian - historically, judicially, and morally," he argued.

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have become willing to talk. Ivan Pavlovich, aged 82, a former officer, said that he pledged his loyalty to Russia and the Black Sea fleet's present commander. "[Admiral] Kasatonov is absolutely right when he says Moscow should be in charge of the fleet," he said. "Ukraine wanting its own navy is nationalistic stupidity."

• **Crimea vote:** The Russian parliament voted yesterday to re-examine the transfer of the Crimea to the Ukrainian republic in 1954. Deputies called on their Ukrainian counterparts also to reconsider the basis of the transfer by Khrushchev, of the peninsula, which at the time formed part of the Russian Federation, to the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian republic. (AFP)

Khrushchev knew of 600,000 Stalin toll

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MORE than 600,000 people were sentenced to death in the years between the end of the Russian civil war and the ascent to power of Nikita Khrushchev, according to figures published for the first time yesterday. Over the same period, almost 2.5 million were sentenced to long terms in prison and labour camps, and 750,000 people were exiled.

Tass yesterday gave the figures from what it said was a secret report submitted to Khrushchev in 1954, the year after he became Soviet leader. The figures relate to the 1921-54 period and show that an average of 20,000 people were sentenced to death in the Soviet Union in each of those 33 years.

The news agency quoted the report as saying that 3,777,580 people were persecuted for "counter-revolutionary activities" over that period, of whom 642,980 were sentenced to death, 2,369,220 to up to 25 years in prison or camps, and 765,180 to exile.

Estonia prime minister resigns

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

THE fall of the Estonian government yesterday has brutally underlined both the dependence of the Baltic states on Russian oil, and the question of the future political role of the Russian minorities in the region.

The resignation of Edgar Savisaar, the prime minister, follows a severe food shortage which was precipitated by lack of fuel. As trade within the former Soviet Union moves to a hard currency basis, all three Baltic states face enormous balance of payments problems with Russia.

Lithuania and Latvia can ensure some Russian oil supplies because Lithuania controls an oil refinery which resupplies parts of Russia, and Latvia controls the oil pipeline which carries Russian exports to the West. Estonia, however, possesses no such levers.

Mr Savisaar was accused, even by his own ministers, of not foreseeing the oil cuts and of relying on worthless contracts with Russia instead of determinedly asking for Western aid to pay for Western imports - although the critics sometimes forget that Estonia does not have the port facilities to bring in such imports in sufficient quantity. This charge became part of a general accusation against Mr Savisaar by right-wing parties that, as a former communist, he was too reliant on the old communist establishment and tended instinctively to look towards Moscow.

The Estonian parliament has set a two-week deadline to establish a new government. Mr Savisaar recommended as prime minister the parliament's chairman, and titular head of state, Arnold Rute, the former communist leader, saying that the new prime minister should be impartial politically. However, Mr Rute's candidacy is unlikely to be acceptable to the right.

THE authorities in Abkhazia, the northwestern region of Georgia, announced a security crackdown yesterday, and it was widely speculated that a state of emergency would be introduced.

While the crackdown against "illegally held arms" was supposedly directed at all sides, it was almost certain to be interpreted as being aimed at supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president, who control Sukhumi airport and a prestigious government dacha just outside the city.

In Poti, government soldiers fought gun battles with armed resistance groups yesterday. A government leader said 15 people were killed in the latest clashes and local officials reported at least two wounded in the Black Sea port, where rival forces clashed at each other from opposite sides of the Rioni river.

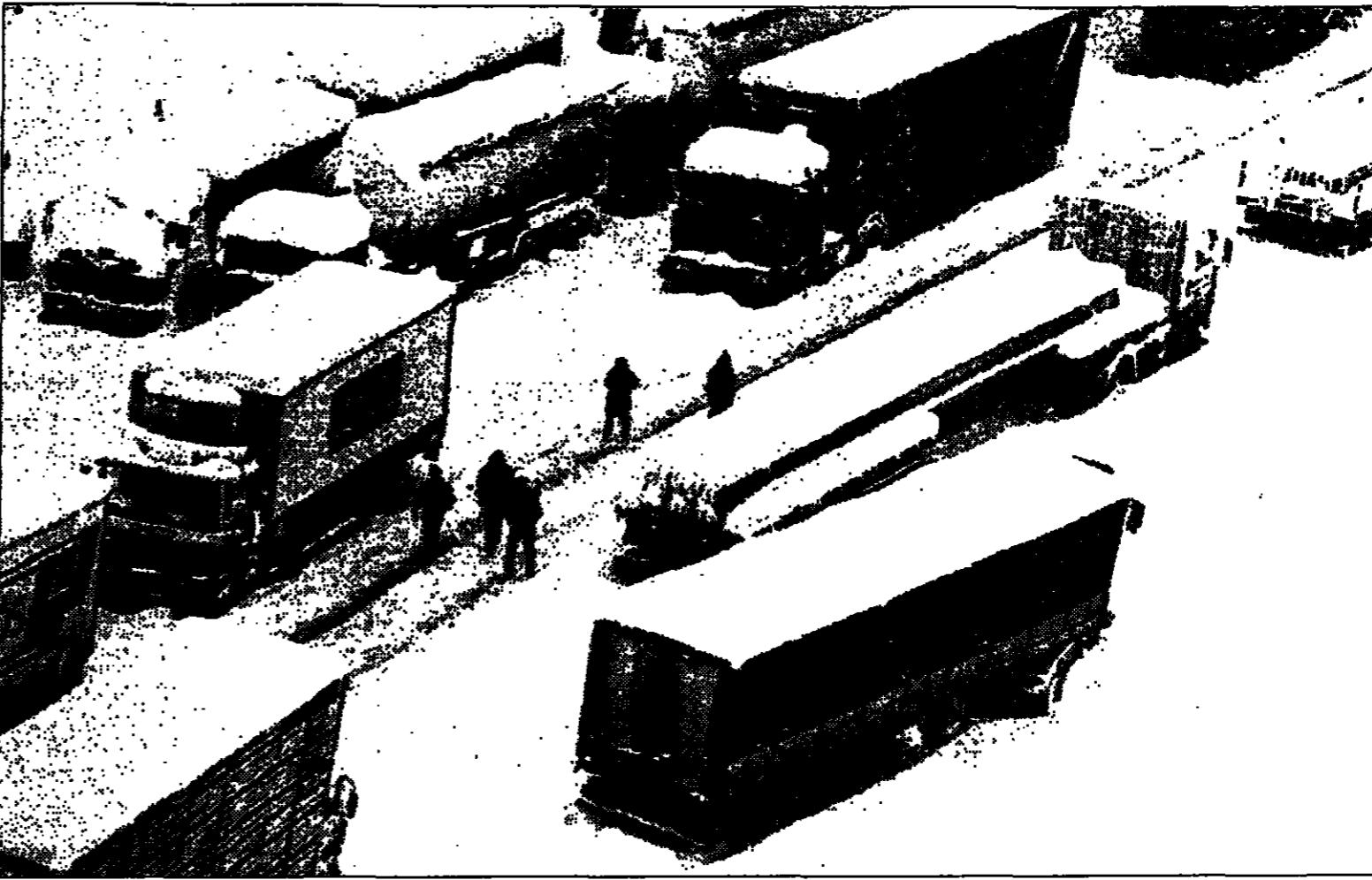
Officials of the self-governing Abkhazia region, where the ethnic Abkhazian community enjoys much-resented political power, acknowledged that extra paramilitary forces had been flown into the area from southern Russia. Earlier, a close associate of Mr Gamsakhurdia, Nugzar Molodinashvili, had raised the spirits of a 500-strong seafarant rally in the city by announcing that the ousted president "is in good health, is getting better all the time and sends you greetings". He denied rumours that Mr Gamsakhurdia was on a drip-feed.

In the snow-covered valleys of western Georgia, meanwhile, the sides seemed to be edging towards a compromise yesterday, though the opposition strongman, Jaba Ioseliani, was still preparing to use force if need be. In the snow-covered valleys of western Georgia, meanwhile, the sides seemed to be edging towards a compromise yesterday, though the opposition strongman, Jaba Ioseliani, was still preparing to use force if need be.

Missile cuts, page 1
Russian realism, page 12
Up for sale, page 14

Georgian leaders tighten noose

FROM BRUCE CLARK
IN SUKHUMI



Weather-beaten: trapped lorries crowding the road between Toulouse and Carcassonne in southwestern France yesterday after some of the worst snowfalls in the area in recent years. Three people died and hundreds were stranded in the bitter cold. Some areas suffered over-

night snowfalls of between 20 and 50 inches, which brought the region to a standstill. The palm-lined beaches of Biarritz on the Atlantic coast were hit by their first blizzards for eight years. Electricity cuts have affected 50,000 people. One of those who died was a Peruvian woman, aged 66, who suffocated after her car was buried in a snowdrift near Boulon. A man was burnt to death when his house in St Cyprien caught fire after he lit a candle because of the electricity cuts, and a woman was killed when her car skidded on an icy road. (Reuters)

Hungary manoeuvres to avoid trap set by Yugoslav collapse

BUDAPEST is trying to bridge the ancient divide between East and West. President Goncz of Hungary talks about the difficulties to Anne McElvoy

ARPAD Goncz, the Hungarian president, could scarcely fail to be reminded of the closeness of the Yugoslav conflict. The entire wall of his reception room is filled with a frieze depicting Janos Hunyadi, the 15th-century Hungarian warrior repelling the Turkish advance before Belgrade, then on the southernmost edge of the Hungarian empire.

The rampaging Ottomans are but a distant echo these days, but the state of things in Belgrade remains a Hungarian preoccupation, even if the amiable president hurries to assure that Hungary is long past resorting to force to state its case.

The country, which has a 400-mile border with Serbia, recognised Croatia promptly following the European Community's lead. It is a move which complicates Hungary's already strained relations with Serbia, where there are more than 400,000 ethnic Hungarians with their minority cultural rights and education severely curtailed.

President Goncz admits that there is tension, albeit "verbal", with Slobodan Milosevic's Serbia. On the Serbian side, this verbal tension has taken the form of

accusations that Hungary is siding with the "old Axis powers" of Germany, Austria and Italy against Serbia. It is in Serbia's interests to make an enemy of Hungary and in Hungary's interests not to fall into this role.

"Hungary is the country most affected by the conflict between Croatia and Serbia", Mr Goncz said. "We have vital economic links to Serbia, so recognition was certainly not intended to be an anti-Serbian move for us. It is simply a recognition of the way things are."

However, the country has had a thousand years of dealings with the southern Slav states and knows that its own future is affected by the turbulent Balkans. "We have no interest in having a bleeding and desperate Croatia on our border, nor a bleeding and desperate Serbia," the president insisted.

The country is faced with a difficult balancing act. It is feeling the strain of economic transition as it tries to

measure up to the standards of the West. At the same time, it casts nervous glances over its shoulder to see what Serbia, Croatia and Ukraine are up to. Yet Hungarian enthusiasm for a new start is complete and uninhibited.

President Goncz talks in the up-beat, cheerfully insistent tones of a team coach at half-time, alternately praising and bullying his people to motivate them through



Goncz: verbal tension with Serbian leader

Jet lacked warning system

London: Air Inter, whose A320 twin jet crashed in France killing 87 on Monday, is the only airline which has not fitted a ground proximity warning system to tell the pilot he was heading for disaster. (Harvey Elliott writes)

The instrument is mandatory for all British commercial aircraft but it is not compulsory on aircraft registered in France.

Airbus A320 experienced difficulties approaching the runway at Strasbourg and got false readings from electronic signals beamed from the ground, crash investigators learned yesterday.

Danes to vote

Copenhagen: Denmark will hold a referendum on European political union. Poul Schluter, the prime minister, has announced. At the European Community summit, Denmark agreed to closer union within the EC, provided that it could hold referendums on political union and a single currency later.

General sacked

Istanbul: General Hamid Gul, a senior Pakistani military officer who has gained support from Muslim extremist leaders for his fundamentalist views, has been dismissed for refusing to accept an appointment as head of an engineering complex.

Kurds raided

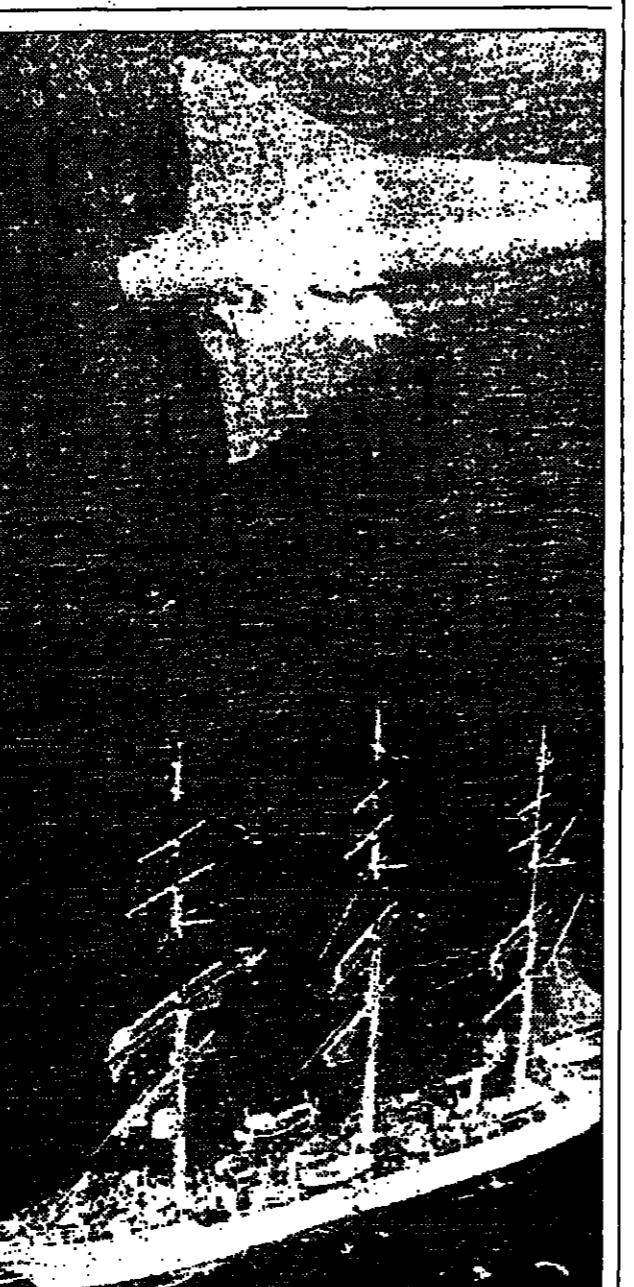
Ankara: Turkish aircraft have been attacking Kurdish rebels in southeastern Turkey for two weeks, a senior officer said. The attacks appeared part of a drive to weaken the guerrillas before they launch a spring offensive. (Reuters)

Naval pullout

Hanoi: Russia will send a military delegation to Hanoi in April or May to negotiate a pullout from Cam Ranh bay, and will withdraw all former Soviet military advisers and dependents, a Russian diplomat said. (Reuters)

Estate agents

Berlin: More than two million claims have been filed from people seeking to recover real estate and other property in eastern Germany. (AFP)



Fighting on: a Danish air force Saab J35 jet, decorated with the squadron's emblem as a protest against closure of an airbase at Karup, overflies a training schooner

Serb squatters home in on Croat town

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ILOK, CROATIA

HOUSE-HUNTING is a haphazard affair in the eastern Croatian town of Ilok these days. Rattling the gate of a locked house, a Serb refugee said: "You don't get a key, just break in."

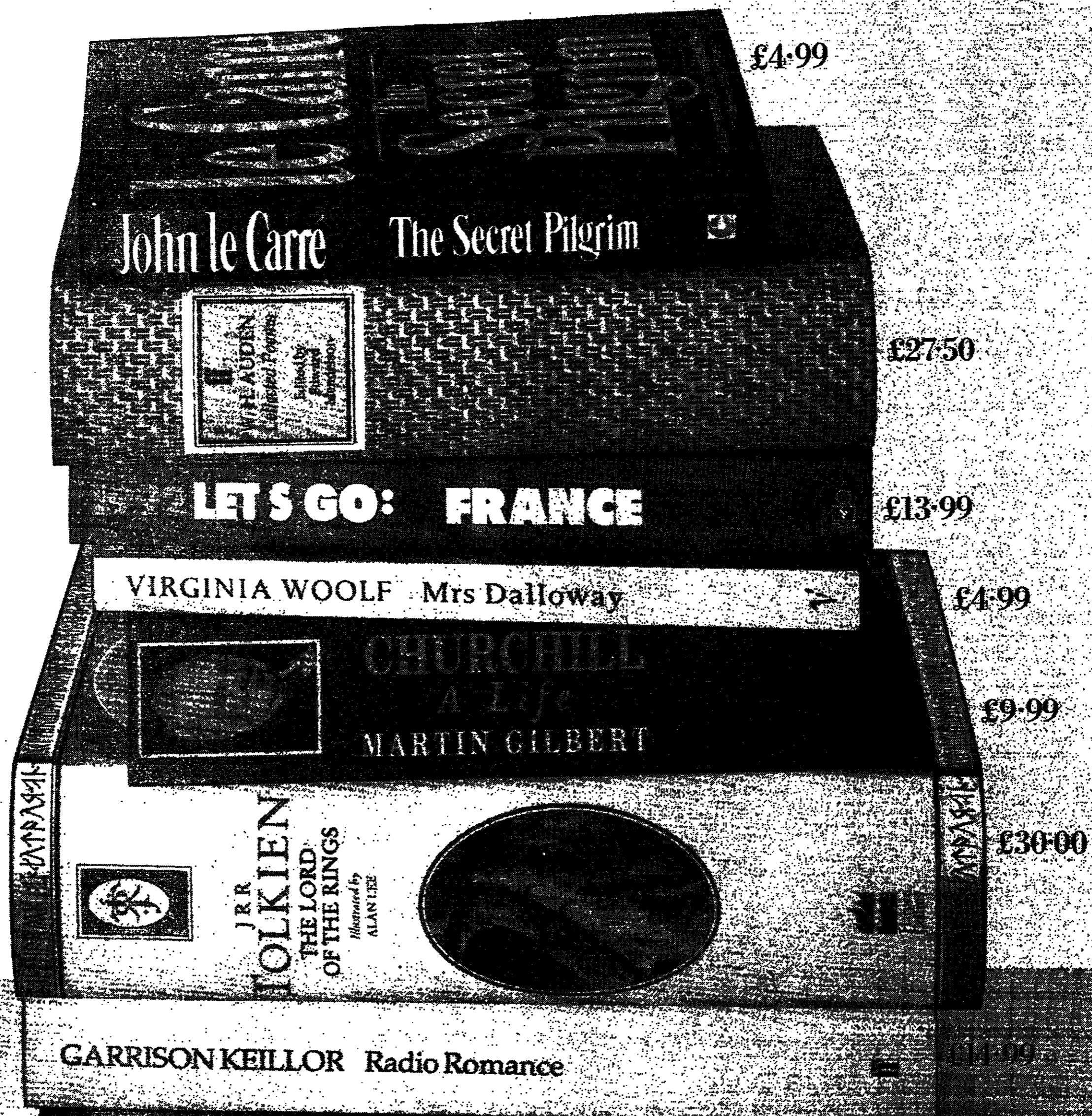
A Croat woman resident said: "This is robbery, they are settling this place by force, and we are frightened. They call in the middle of the night, they threaten, and say, 'Why haven't you gone yet?' If you identified me," she added, "they'd kill me for telling you this."

Croats who remain in the town on the banks of the Danube, 70 miles west of Belgrade, occupied by the Yugoslav army, say they are prevented from leaving, except if they are going for good, and they say they are

even prevented from making contact with their families who have fled. Meanwhile, refugee Serbs, who want only to return to their own homes, have been encouraged to come to settle to consolidate places such as Ilok. Draconian catch-all laws have been passed to prevent Croat residents from returning.

But a visit to the Ilok offices of the self-proclaimed Serbian government of Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem proved disappointing. There is no one here today," a surly secretary said, adding, "and I am not expecting anyone."

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Zairean soldiers crush mutiny against Mobutu

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE IN KINSHASA

TROOPS loyal to President Mobutu of Zaire put down a mutiny early yesterday, leaving two people dead. Rebel soldiers, whom officials said came from the 312th battalion based at the Seta training camp for airborne troops south of Kinshasa, had seized the radio station here overnight, broadcasting calls for the resignation of President Mobutu, Nguza Karbi-Bond, the prime minister, and his government.

They also wanted the resumption of a national conference on democracy which Mr Nguza had cancelled at the weekend, leading to street protests and widespread demonstrations among opposition parties. The defence minister, Ngbanda Nzambo Ko Anumba, said the rebel "adventurers" fled from the

radio station before loyalist troops moved in, but "some of them fell into the net of the security forces". The rebels, said officially to number 29, used a Coca-Cola delivery lorry to get on to the premises. One mutineer and one civilian guard were killed during the operation, the radio said when it resumed normal broadcasting under the control of the military.

Mr Ngbanda said that the rebels had forced a military journalist to read their statements over the radio, but dismissed their demands as "inane". In working-class areas of Kinshasa, residents danced in the streets and turned their radios up to full blast during the occupation of the radio station, according to witnesses. Camp Seta, close to Njili airport, saw the

start of rioting by disgruntled troops late in September last year, which grew into pillage and havoc. That level of unrest led to military intervention by France and Belgium, the former colonial power, which evacuated hundreds of foreign nationals.

Central Kinshasa was almost deserted yesterday morning, apart from military checkpoints outside key buildings and at main road junctions which did not appear to have been reinforced. Witnesses said that outlying parts of the capital had also become very quiet.

The French government said yesterday, in a first reaction to the mutiny, that "the resumption of the national conference is the only way to restore calm" in Zaire. A day earlier, the 12 nations of the European Community suspended aid in protest at Mr Nguza's decision to call off the debate.

Mr Nguza said the conference could lead to tribal warfare and the partition of the country. His decision came after pro-government delegates made an unsuccessful attempt to change what they called the "geopolitical" representation of the conference, arguing that some Zairean states were favoured unduly.

In their broadcast, the mutineers called on France, Belgium and the United States to intervene to "prevent civil war" in Zaire. The takeover of the radio station was said to

the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the official opposition in parliament, to call off the procession because it could spark renewed religious clashes throughout the north.

The incident, in which the driver of the bus also died and 30 people were injured, came a day after the government gave a warning that there could be serious trouble once the marchers, who set out from southern India last month, reached Punjab. It had earlier appealed to the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the official opposition in parliament, to call off the procession because it could spark renewed religious clashes throughout the north.

The marchers were travelling in a seven-bus convoy when they came under attack from Sikh separatists using automatic rifles. Several leading members of the BJP were in the vehicles. The executive of the party, which is calling its procession *ekta yatra* (journey of unity), meets in the Kashmiri city of Jammu today to decide its response to government requests to call off the procession.

The *ekta yatra* set off with the aim of highlighting the

alleged threat to the unity of India which is posed by Kashmiri separatists. The present plan is for the procession to travel from Jammu to Srinagar, the capital of the predominantly Muslim Kashmiri valley. The security forces have said that they will not be able to guarantee the safety of those taking part.

The procession is headed by Murli Joshi, the president of the BJP, who plans to raise the Indian flag at Lal Chowk in the centre of Srinagar on Sunday, an area regarded as a stronghold of armed militants. There were signs last night that the party might agree on measures to defuse tensions rather than create another crisis across northern India. A *nat yatra* (chariot journey) by the BJP in late 1990 lead to widespread violence across the north, in which hundreds of people, mostly Muslims, were killed.

Mr Joshi, who was further back in the heavily guarded main part of the procession when the Sikh attack was launched, continued his anti-Pakistan tirade yesterday. He said that Islamabad was "hobnobbing" with central Asian states which possessed nuclear weapons. Islamic fundamentalism threatened world peace, he said, and India should immediately manufacture its own bomb.

Leading article, page 15



Flag day: an activist of the African National Congress waving the anti-apartheid black organisation's flag from the equestrian statue of Louis Botha, the leader of Afrikanerdom during the Boer war, in front of the parliament building in Cape Town yesterday

Sikhs kill Hindus in attack on bus

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SIKH gunmen shot dead three Hindus travelling in a convoy of buses through Punjab yesterday on their way to join a mass march to the Kashmiri valley. The killings sharply increased religious tensions as troops and paramilitary police tightened security in the two northern Indian states.

The incident, in which the driver of the bus also died and 30 people were injured, came a day after the government gave a warning that there could be serious trouble once the marchers, who set out from southern India last month, reached Punjab. It had earlier appealed to the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the official opposition in parliament, to call off the procession because it could spark renewed religious clashes throughout the north.

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Leading article, page 15

Whites prepare to bid parliament farewell

FROM GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

AFRICA'S last white parliament convenes in a splendid colonial building beneath Table mountain today for what may be its last session.

In his opening address, President de Klerk is expected to outline proposals for sharing power with the black majority, thereby sounding the death knell for the racist institution that has governed South Africa since the country's birth in 1910. As he delivers his speech, thousands of blacks mobilised by the African National Congress will march near the parliament building to demand a prompt transfer of power to

an interim government and a constituent assembly.

Mr de Klerk has conceded the principle of sharing power and is likely to elaborate on his plans for bringing blacks into government at legislative and executive levels as quickly as possible. The consensus is that an interim arrangement, pending a post-apartheid constitution and general elections, should be approved in time for blacks to take their places in parliament in a year's time. The present tri-cameral system, instituted in 1983, is reserved for whites, Coloureds and Indians.

Members of the ruling Nat-

ional party say the president cannot be expected to match the drama of his two preceding opening addresses, when he announced the " unbanning" of the ANC and the abolition of apartheid legislation. But Mr de Klerk may be relied on to produce at least one more rabbit out of his hat — the concept of a multiracial interim government.

A signal of parliament's waning authority was an announcement this week that from February 10 it would not sit on Mondays and Tuesdays to allow members to participate in negotiations with the ANC and others.

With the exception of the far-right Conservative party, every parliamentary party has representatives on committees established by the negotiating forum. The Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) Parliament remains the sovereign legislative body, but it is bound formally to liaise with Codesa on any important new laws.

Steve Tshwete, a senior member of the ANC executive committee, summed up the ANC's views on the matter: "It is time for the people to demand, as did Oliver Cromwell of the Long Parliament in Britain: 'In the name of God, go!'"

Japan makes U-turn to buy from Detroit

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IT MAY not make much of a dent in the enormous Japanese trade deficit with the United States, but Japan's parliament is to buy two American cars.

The planned purchase of two Buick Park Avenues, made at the request of the ruling Liberal Democratic party, is to encourage the import of American cars, a parliamentary spokesman said yesterday.

Diplomatically ignoring the fact that Detroit's products are likely to be too wide to drive down many of Tokyo's narrow streets, the government's investment in the limousines, each worth \$44,000 (£24,000), could backfire as it offers insultingly small change for America.

The news comes after Yoshiro Sakuruchi, the veteran speaker of the chamber, ignited a Japanese-American dispute by saying that American workers are lazy and their products of poor quality. The remarks brought a trail of denunciation from American political and business leaders.

As a new session of the Diet opens today, Kiichi Miyazawa faces his toughest test since assuming the

position of prime minister last November. With his leadership abilities in serious doubt, he confronts the prospect of an unruly barrage of opposition questions on a series of political corruption scandals involving his close political allies and members of the Liberal Democratic party that heads.

Mercifully for Mr Miyazawa, Japan's opposition parties are effectively impotent in the political scheme of things, since they have not held power for more than 36 years and appear to have no likelihood of doing so. His more serious worry, however, is the fact that once the session gets underway next week, his qualities as a head of state will come under severe scrutiny from the liberal party's real power behind the throne.

Noboru Takeshita, the former prime minister, and Shin Kanemaru, the deputy president of the party, will spend the next few weeks judging whether Mr Miyazawa is fit to continue heading the party. Mr Miyazawa has also watched his popularity plummet in the eyes of an electorate that suspects him of being not only feeble and inept but also corrupt.

Washington to impose tough restrictions on aid to Israel

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE Bush administration last night was expected to set out tough, new guidelines on economic assistance to Israel, in an effort to allay Arab fears that it is helping to fund Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The unprecedented restrictions, on Israel's request for \$10 billion (£5.5 billion) in loan guarantees over five years for absorbing immigrants, were due to be presented to Zalman Shoval, the Israeli envoy to Washington, when he met James Baker,

depend on the safeguards built into the loan guarantee package to ensure that the money was not spent in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. A decision on whether the Palestinians will attend the next round of talks, the multilateral conference in Moscow next week, is likely to be decided in Morocco today at a meeting of Arab foreign ministers.

"We are not interested in interfering in American policy or in American-Israeli relations," she said at a press conference. "But we are interested in anything that affects our lives and our rights."

She accused the Israeli government of demanding unconditional assistance so that the funds could be diverted to help it meet the cost of its rapid expansion of settlements in the territories. Peace Now, an Israeli left-wing monitoring group, on Wednesday estimated that Israel spent \$1.1 billion in housing and infrastructure last year alone and built more than 13,000 units on occupied land, an increase of 60 per cent.

However, in a more conciliatory approach, Mrs Ashrawi said: "If the United States can manage to get provisions and to get conditions and to get commitments that would eliminate entirely any possibility of these funds being used to subsidise the occupation or settlement activity... then that is not our business."

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister whose government has already included this year's first American instalment in its budget, has vowed to continue the settlement construction campaign, but has also appealed to Wash-

ington on humanitarian grounds to help the Jewish state through a period of economic difficulty as it attempts to absorb thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Israel's poor economic performance, particularly rising unemployment, has already slowed the rate of immigration, which in the first three weeks of this month stood at only 3,000. In addition, a poll released yesterday revealed that the vast majority of Israelis in Tel Aviv, about half the country's population, were willing to move there.

In the second attack to curb mounting guerrilla attacks this year, Israeli helicopter gunships yesterday blasted positions of Lebanese Muslim guerrillas in south Lebanon, wounding at least one gunman.

do not want to live in the occupied territories. The poll found that only 0.9 per cent would consider moving to cheaper, but potentially more dangerous, housing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The same survey in 1983 found that 10 per cent were willing to move there.

In an unprecedented decision, the Jerusalem magistrate court yesterday found the *muezzin* of the Sheikh Jarrah mosque next to the American Colony hotel in Arab East Jerusalem guilty of "making unreasonable noise" and causing distress to

the volume of the dawn appeal to worship has become a political issue in the Muslim-Jewish confrontation in Jerusalem, Richard Beeston reports

Jewish neighbours a few hundred yards away in the Israeli part of the city. The court fined the defendant £55 and was bound over in the sum of £500 that he would not repeat the offence within the next three years.

The conviction was the result of a police investigation into allegations that the tiny mosque, with notoriously powerful loudspeakers attached to its minaret, deliberately turned up the volume of its prayer call five times a day across the old "green line" towards the Jewish residential districts, also at night and during the Jewish Sabbath.

The Jewish Orthodox community alleged that the volume had increased substantially since the Palestinian intifada began four years ago, and police armed with sound-monitoring equipment found the *muezzin* guilty of breaking the city's noise regulations.

"In addition to Jews, we received complaints about the noise from Muslims and Christians as well, although they were too afraid to give

their names," said Ami Cheshin, the head of the Jerusalem municipality's department of Arab affairs.

However, his comments will do little to ease Muslim anger, particularly since the ruling was made on the same day that Islamic leaders from around the world gathered in Marrakesh to meet King Hassan of Morocco to discuss ways of preserving Jerusalem's Muslim heritage.

The defendant in yesterday's case said he would appeal against the decision and ask Wakf, the Muslim religious administration, to intervene on his behalf. "The city is so sensitive that the court is no place to settle problems like this," said Moshe Amiran, a city councilor. "These arguments should be settled by agreement or else you will lead the city to an explosive situation."



Ashrawi: taking a more conciliatory approach

the American Secretary of State. The request for aid was made almost a year ago but delayed twice because of concern that any additional financial assistance to Israel, already the largest recipient of American aid worth \$3 billion annually, could threaten Arab participation in the peace process.

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, said yesterday that continued Palestinian involvement in the American-led initiative would

ALGIERS NOTEBOOK by John Phillips

When happiness is an outside line

Foreign journalists flooded into the St George hotel in Algiers when the country's first legislative elections were cancelled last week. The hotel, which for a time was Churchill's headquarters during the second world war, has a tranquil garden, with palm trees and exotic flowers, laid out on a hill overlooking the Mediterranean that seems to belong to a different age.

But when hundreds of correspondents tried to call their offices, the hotel switchboard jammed. A few reporters, frustrated at waiting up to three hours for a telephone line, moved to the less chic Aletti hotel, situated on the seaside Boulevard de la Gendarmerie overlooking the port of Algiers.

Rooms at the hotel, which served as headquarters for the international press during Algeria's war of independence, had no direct dial

telephones and no foreign lines in the mini-bars. But the hard-working switchboard staff invariably managed to get reporters' calls out within minutes.

Perhaps their industriousness was due to the aspirations of Abdellah Benali, the hotel's manager, who stood as an independent candidate in the Algerian parliamentary elections. Guests discovered he had inserted electoral propaganda for himself among the stationery in their rooms.

He art-deco table lights in the Aletti restaurant and the battered lift still driven manually by a bell boy recall another epoch immortalized by Edward Behr, the veteran correspondent for *Time* and *Newsweek*, in his memoirs *Anyone Here Been Raped and Speaks English?*

Behr recounted reaching

for a meat cleaver when angry OAS pieds noirs burst into the Aletti dining room to protest at what they saw as coverage favourable to Algerian guerrillas. Violence was averted when the hotel's proprietor at the time, Mr

in trying to connect you

for a meat cleaver when angry OAS pieds noirs burst into the Aletti dining room to protest at what they saw as coverage favourable to Algerian guerrillas. Violence was averted when the hotel's proprietor at the time, Mr

denied it is also a priority for management of the national carrier, Air Algérie. Not all the jets in the airline's fleet are the most modern. The pilot on a flight from Paris on Christmas Day, however, obligingly waited for all the passengers who had reserved seats to check in and embark before taking off. Many of the travellers were returning to their homes to vote.

A n earlier Air France flight was over-booked. The disappointed would-be passengers who were turned away included the French widow of an Algerian man whose coffin had to leave without her.

Muslim fundamentalist influences have yet to have any discernible effect on Air Algérie's cuisine. Christmas lunch served at 30.000ft above the Mediterranean, included lobster, turkey and champagne.

Sound faith: mosques, synagogues and churches dominate life in Jerusalem

shops

shops

shops

GALLERIES: OXFORD

Uncle Joe made them see red

Now that so many colossal bronze effigies of Stalinist idols have been toppled, battered and dismembered, Russians are no longer obliged to shudder at the overbearing presence of tarnished heroes exhorting them to strive and sacrifice for the Motherland. Such rhetoric is irrevocably discredited.

But only 60 years ago a secret meeting at Maxim Gorky's flat was told, by Comrade Stalin himself, that the Soviet writer should transform himself into "an engineer of the human soul". This ominous phrase became the cornerstone of Socialist Realism, a doctrine so tyrannous and cruelly implemented that Russian artists are still struggling to recover from its crushing legacy.

Nobody would guess, from the apparent benevolence of the paintings assembled at the Oxford Museum of Modern Art for *Engineers of the Human Soul: Soviet Socialist Realist Painting 1930-1970*, that Stalin's *apparatchiks* stamped out any attempt to deviate from the propagandist norm. Images of the leader abounded, and they promote him as an avuncular figure whose gestures suggest a limitless generosity of spirit.

In reality, Stalin was a paranoid mass-murderer, who thought nothing of exterminating artists courageous enough to resist his decrees. But no hint of that thuggishness disturbs the magnanimous portraits displayed here. Nor do their makers dare to disclose that he was squat, pock-marked, and had a withered arm.

Even in Vrubl Mosesov's painting of Stalin leading a demonstration in Batum as early as 1912, the myth-making does not falter. Bearded and gaunt, the young insurgent bears scant resemblance to the rosy-cheeked paternoster of later years. Already, however, he possesses a forcefulness appropriate to a Man of Destiny.

Striding at the head of a crowd who brandish prophetic red flags, Stalin becomes without undue effort the cynosure for his fellow protestants. A bourgeois lady on the edge of the picture-space leans insistently against her companion as she gazes, askance, at this fearless paragon of dissent.

The other portraits, dating from the era of Stalin's absolute supremacy, dispense with the idea that he could engender hostility or alarm. *Leader, Teacher and Friend* is the risible title attached to Grigori Shegal's 1937 painting. Stalin

Richard Cork on a show which reveals the feebleness that afflicted Soviet art under the influence of Stalin's censors

moves among the admiring delegates at a conference like a kindly, unassuming host. The Soviet writer should transform himself into "an engineer of the human soul".

To our eyes, the picture seems transparently bogus. We know that Stalin, beset by insecurities, rejected openness in favour of a defensive strategy based on betrayal and denunciation. But to the nation which endured his regime, the truth was far less easy to discern.

These seemingly fatuous celebrations of paternalistic leadership had an insidious effect. For the Russian people wanted to believe that the man presiding over their fate was as principled as the saintly figure dominating Fyodor Shurpin's 1948 portrait, who stands in an unblimmed white uniform as dawn begins to illuminate a field peppered with purposeful ranks of tractors.

Whenever painters ventured into those stretches of crop-laden earth, they discovered peasants smiling so rigidly that their mouths must have ached with the muscular strain involved. The dogged reality of farm labour is nowhere to be seen, and in its place "friends" teach one another how to steer a mighty harvesting machine.

Even the most strenuous of five-year plans must have rest-periods, however, and Aleksei Vasilev shows the perpetually glowing workers seated beside a melon and pitcher.

They are Writing about Us in Pravda, runs the title, helpfully explaining why the labourers stare with stereotyped delight at the young woman reading from the newspaper in her lap.

The styles adopted in these fatuous scenes are irredeemably debased. Pending that all the most vital developments in modern art had never occurred, Stalin's favoured painters relied on weary academic formulae which the Impressionists had discredited in the previous century.

Towards the end of Stalin's reign, all the lies about sun-dappled productivity are interspersed with glimpses of more authentic feeling. The three robust nudes in Gerasimov's *A Russian Communal Bath* are handled with a gusto healthily removed from his earlier portrait of Stalin at the party congress. Hagiography gives way to a direct, sensuous apprehension of human flesh.

Gerasimov's unexpected outburst of painterly flair made me all the more angry about the abuse of talent so evident elsewhere. What

might some of these artists have achieved if their integrity had been fostered, rather than broken on the wheel of Zhdanov's remorseless censorship?

Tentative beginnings at an an-

tegory are provided in the show's last

section, where a post-Stalinist thaw permits a range of alternative visions. The dictator himself is finally shown in a red coffin, decked with conspicuously festive flowers which the painter, Mikael Abdullow, must have regarded as a declaration of joy.

Hesitant flirtations with the Impressionist heresy soon followed. And Dmitri Zhulinski caught the emergent mood of liberation in an oil sketch for *The Bridge Builders*, where soldiers doff their uniforms

and gambol by the water's edge.

For all its flamboyance, Dantzig's immense painting still, al-

most manages to be cast aside

to the hoary idea that Russian life must be presented as a vigorous assertion of communist triumphalism in action. There is only one painter daring to offer a corrective to all the optimism: Erik Bulatov, whose youthful *At the Spring* is preoccupied with lassitude, alienation and melancholy.

The year is 1957, and decades had to pass before Bulatov could be openly hailed as a painter who consistently subverted the pictorial bromides of his age. But here, in this quiet, immobile painting, there is at least a hint that the ice-flow of cultural repression might one day dissolve altogether.

• *Engineers of the Human Soul: Soviet Socialist Realist Painting 1930-1970* at the Oxford Museum of Modern Art (0865 722723) until March 15.

Old habits could not be cast aside

so blithely. As late as the mid-

1960s, Gelli Korzhev was still

prepared to make a nonsense of a

picture called *Anxiety* by placing

in the foreground, a girl with the

familiar smile stretching her lips.

After the Hermitage Museum's

Post-Impressionist holdings had

been retrieved from the cellars

where Stalin banished them, Eduard Bragovski felt able to invest his

Logging on the Verge with a dash

of Gauguinesque mystery. Mai

Dansig attempted a similar meta-

morphosis in *A Sunny Day*, where

the housewife hanging out wash-

ing is given an exotic allure with

the help of the clothes-pegs slung

like a garland around her neck.

For all its flamboyance, Dant-

zig's immense painting still, al-

most manages to be cast aside

to the hoary idea that Russian

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one day dissolve altogether.

• *Engineers of the Human Soul: Soviet*

Socialist Realist Painting 1930-1970

at the Oxford Museum of Modern Art (0865 722723) until March 15.



False note? Gelli Korzhev's *Anxiety*, 1965-68, features "a girl with the familiar smile".

CHINESE PAINTINGS
GALLERIES

• **MARK GERTLER**: The centenary of Gertler's birth in December 1991, so this centenary exhibition is prompter than it seems. Gertler was in his lifetime the most famous of a generation of Anglo-Jewish artists which also included Bomberg, Rosenberg and Meninsky, but in recent years he has been overshadowed by the growing reputation of Bomberg. This show, which includes paintings and drawings from the whole of his relatively short and undeniably stormy career, should help to redress the balance, by showing an artist variable indeed, but at his best as powerful as any of his peers.

Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 (071-435 2643). Tues-Thurs 12.30pm, Fri-Sun 12.30pm, until March 8.

• **NEW GERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY**: Much of the photography given Krupp Fellowship Awards in 1988-89 expresses itself through the suggestive qualities of the deliberately flat and non-committal. Rudolf Bonvie is something of an exception, with his colour-saturated images of nuclear plants, but Volker Heinz's portraits of outsiders and Joachim Brohm's images of roads and verges leave most of the work up to the spectators. Even Mathias Wehner's sculptural installation of enlarged heads from European bank notes needs determined reading.

Photographer's Gallery, 8 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (071-631 1772). Tues-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 12.30pm, until March 12.

• **HISTORY AND IDENTITY**: The Commonwealth Institute is coordinating its artistic programmes for this year under the general title of "New Worlds", examining the varying relationships between individual Commonwealth countries and the European world view. This first exhibition examines the question through the work of seven artists from Britain's African and Asian communities, all concerned in some way with defining their dual cultural heritage. Four were born abroad, three in Britain. The concerns of all are complex and sophisticated, transposing the picturesque. Showcases, Gallery, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (071-803 4535). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, until April 12.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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Theatre, Opera,
and Music
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CLASSICAL MUSIC

If it's Friday, this must be London

Richard Morrison joined the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for part of a whistle-stop tour of European cities

In the hallowed words of football coaches all over America: when the going gets tough, the tough get going. The going has been tough for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra recently. All British orchestras have been alarmed by the recession's effect on the box office, but the RPO has also been involved in an imbroglio with the Arts Council over a stunning 12.9 per cent cut in its grant. It was the only major arts body to have its public subsidy reduced for next season.

Now it has got going with admirable resilience. After its Festival Hall concert in London tonight the orchestra and its music director Vladimir Ashkenazy will almost have completed a remarkable tour, encompassing all 12 capitals in the European Community and a couple of other cities besides: 110 musicians, criss-crossing Europe 14 times in 20 days.

This is not only a fitting fanfare to 1992 (the orchestra claims to be the first ensemble ever to have visited all the EC capitals in one mighty odyssey), but also the best possible riposte to the Arts Council: if Britain will not properly support us, the musicians are implicitly saying, the rest of the world will. Much the same mood was apparent last year in another London orchestra, the Philharmonia, when it announced the astonishing news that it was becoming the resident ensemble at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris.

"We could work 12 months of the year abroad, if we wanted," says Bruce Jefferson, the RPO spokesman. Celinet has also contributed substantial sponsorship; even so, the RPO will not

make a profit on this trip.

"We regard it as a loss leader," says Jefferson. He means that it keeps the players in work and gets the orchestra noticed in important places such as the Berlin Schauspielhaus and in Madrid, now the European City of Culture.

From the Arts Council the RPO will receive £400,000 for a whole year. From the British Council for this single three-week tour it will get £100,000. Such are the vagaries of public subsidy.

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make a profit on this trip.

"We regard it as a loss leader," says Jefferson. He means that it keeps the players in work and gets the orchestra noticed in important places such as the Berlin Schauspielhaus and in Madrid, now the European City of Culture.

Moreover, the fortitude of British musicians on the road is legendary. As Jefferson wryly observes: "These are players who have looked out through the windows of a plane about to take off from Leipzig airport and experienced the unique *frisson* of seeing the timpani still standing on the tarmac. Merely touring 12 countries in 20 days is a breeze".

Vaughn Williams, and most of the rest have already heard Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem* — music that Ashkenazy advocates with great zest.

Originally the intention was that each capital should also hear music by a native of that country. But the spirit of musical adventure must have wobbled at the idea of finding suitable Belgian and Portuguese crowd-pullers, and was extinguished utterly by the daunting prospect of Luxembourg, because the plan was abandoned.

Even the Spanish connection that I heard in Madrid on Sunday was a bit strained: a "Suite Espagnole", thickly orchestrated by Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos from the music of Albeniz, and Strauss's *Don Quixote* (with Mischa Maisky a superbly dramatic cello solo) — which is at least about an authentic Spanish hero, albeit a fictitious one.

Does playing in a different country every night adversely affect an orchestra's performances? London orchestras actually seem to play with more cohesion and polish abroad, possibly because a tour allows them to repeat repertoire in a way that is rarely possible in London.

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versity of Kent at Canterbury.

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Ready, willing, disabled

Alan Franks talks to Alf Morris, the MP whose lifelong battle on behalf of a still-oppressed minority is about to enter a crucial new phase

Alf Morris has been here before. In 1970, with a general election imminent and not much time left in the Parliamentary session, his 33-clause bill, aimed at improving the rights of the disabled, seemed certain to founder. "Never mind," he reasoned. "If the drafting of the bill manages to start a public debate, perhaps it will have served its purpose."

As it turned out, the bill attracted a seldom matched degree of all-party support, developed a momentum of its own, and, before the House disbanded for the June election, had matured into the historic Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

A week today, a new and no less ambitious bill, brought by Mr Morris as a private member, and intended to outlaw discrimination against the disabled, mental and physical, is due to receive its second reading in the Commons. Its aim is to guarantee for disabled people similar legal rights to those available to women and black people under the sex and race equality laws. It would make it illegal for anyone to use disability as a reason for withholding equal treatment, whether in housing, employment, education, transport, leisure, or any other public and private services.

Because of the election, such a measure could only become law with the backing of the government's business managers. Once again, time is running out, and the odds seem to be against an enactment this session.

Mr Morris is having no such pessimism. You might expect nothing less from the presenter of a bill which enshrines ideals he has held dear for his 28 Parliamentary years. What heartens the Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, most of all, and makes him back to 1970 as a plausible precedent, is the fact that Nicholas Scott, the minister for social security and disabled persons, has declared his own attitude to be one of benign neutrality. "Six months ago," Mr Morris says, "or even as recently as last September, you could have described the government's attitude as one of malign hostility. Instead of favouring legislation that would make discrimination a breach of the law, they wanted to educate opinion, and to change the public's approach by exhortation."

These words are delivered in a drawl and weary way, as if the time it takes to say them, and the predictability of their conclusion, describes the futile grind of such a pliable precedent. The fact that Nicholas Scott, the minister for social security and disabled persons, has declared his own attitude to be one of benign neutrality. "Six months ago," Mr Morris says, "or even as recently as last September, you could have described the government's attitude as one of malign hostility. Instead of favouring legislation that would make discrimination a breach of the law, they wanted to educate opinion, and to change the public's approach by exhortation."

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an approach, Mr Morris sounds like a man who has not so much run out of liberalism, but grown tired of its ineffectiveness.

He is now aged 65, full of the patient reproach and dogged truculence that can be found in Labour members of his generation. Having been chairman of the world committee appointed to draft the "Charter for the 1980s" for disabled people, he is also painfully well placed to assess the gap between the aspirations at the start of the decade, and the present reality. He almost seems to have lost his faith in persuasion.

"I have pointed out that on the single issue of car seat belts, the government spent more than £7 million — and I am talking of 1960s prices, not today's — trying to 'educate and exhort', and it failed, and so they had to legislate. Now, they haven't spent anything like that amount in trying to change public attitudes towards people with disabilities, yet they still insisted that that [education] remained the way forward."

The parallels between 1970 and now, although extensive, turn out to be largely academic. They also mask a critical difference: whereas the 1970 Act addressed questions of rights and benefits for the first time in a comprehensive way, the present bill is designed to free the disabled from such "further disabilities" as bad employers or denial of physical access to shops, public transport and buildings. Its targets are discrimination by design and by neglect.

It is simply outrageous for a shipping line to return a deaf woman's cheque because they don't think that a particular holiday is suitable for her," Mr Morris fumes. "That, to me, is the ultimate in concession, and it is revolting; or for a woman who has been given a particularly responsible post by a police authority to be told, 'You've got the job, but you can't join the pension scheme.' Or for someone who has worked for a company for 20 years and then is suddenly disabled to be suddenly pushed to the back of the longest queue in the country [for jobs] just because his employers refuse to carry out the modifications needed for him at work. Or for a 16-year-old girl getting a job as a filing clerk, only to be sacked on her first morning because she has one hand missing."

Mr Morris only grows impatient if the discussion dwells too long on the state of existing legal remedies for such cases. The



Sport sets the standard: the Southport Sharks tackle Lodmoor Raiders in a game of wheelchair rugby during last year's Disabled Games at Stoke Mandeville

impression is that there is really no room in discussing them because they do not exist. "The whole point is that, whatever people say, it is not illegal to discriminate. For example, if Earl Spencer wants to deny admission to his home by people in wheelchairs, there is nothing to stop him doing so."

To say that there was no legislation at all on the statute books before 1970 is not technically true. There had been the 1944 Disabled Persons Employment Act, now effectively defunct through the failure of firms to comply with its provisions. One of the most important of these was the requirement that any firm with 20 or more staff should have among

them at least 3 per cent with a registered disability. In 1987 *The Times* reported that barely more than a quarter were meeting the requirement. Today, the Disability Information and Advice Service in London says that the number of companies complying with the quota is "almost none".

As for the government itself, not one of its 25 principal departments was meeting the target.

Of course, that Act is not binding on the Crown (an immunity which Mr Morris's bill seeks to remove), yet government departments have none the less agreed in theory to observe the

quotas. Even the BBC, often cited as a benevolent employer, found room for a mere 85 registered disabled in a staff of almost 30,000.

There have been some efforts to enforce the 1944 Act". Mr Morris concedes, "but all the organisations for the disabled with which I have dealt tell me that the law is perpetually defied. There was some staggering evidence in a recent enquiry by one of the organisations, that 6 per cent of employers actually said they would never take on a disabled person.

Now that is the kind of thing which is a challenge, and which demands legal action. After all, a disability is a handicapping thing,

and our task is to reduce the handicapping effect of it. If we are prepared to turn a blind eye to outright discrimination, I believe it detracts from our international reputation."

Mr Morris believes that although the 1970 Act meant that Britain "led the world" in disability legislation, we have slipped from the front of the field to the very back; and that countries which were once motivated by our example — he cites America, Canada, Australia and France — are now at the leading edge.

If the Morris bill were to become law, it would be the first time that the term "civil rights" has found its way into the statute book, the

full title being the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) bill. This, its presenter argues, is significant in its own right: "It represents a positive way of approaching the problem. It is a matter not of saying what we are against, but what we are for; and what we are for is citizenship and social equality for disabled people."

One of the bill's most important goals is the establishment of a Disablism Commission, able to investigate not only individual complaints about discrimination, but also more general areas where discrimination is suspected. And it would have the power to impose penalties, and take employment cases to industrial tribunals.

The bookman's dilemma

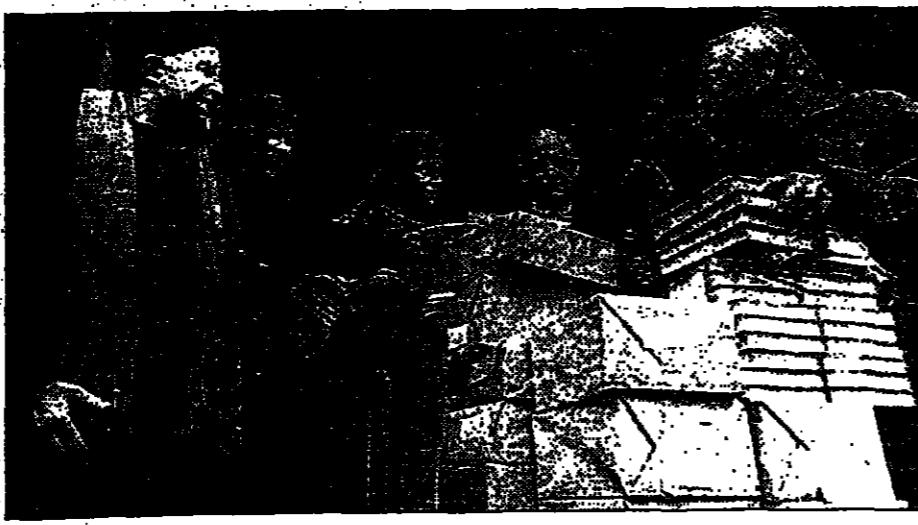
Book Aid forces our literary editor into some difficult choices

Like a lot of others, our household has more books than leisure in which to read them. So Book Aid, which hopes to have collected up to a million books this week for Russia and the other former Soviet republics, seemed at first like a godsend. Instead of taking books to the bank, we would take unwanted books to the nearest Waterstone's.

A literary editor spends much of the day sending books out to reviewers. It is not a job for unduly possessive personalities. Our house is full of books, and it was the work of a few minutes to dig up a box of political books to interest a Russian, because their function is really utilitarian.

We began with titles such as *The Soviet Union and Terrorism*, *Campaigns against Western Defence* or *How Democracies Perish*, books which will help peoples trying to make sense of their past. There was a fat volume of selections from perhaps the favourite philosopher of all the former communist countries, Hayek. As a sop to any old socialists left in Russia, we added Mamy Shmelev's memoirs.

After that, however, it got harder. My wife, Sarah, contributed a book about nutrition for children which may, alas, be of only academic interest to most Russian mothers. But when it came to English literature, we could not agree. Other possessions are pooled after marriage, only books preserve an absolute claim on



COLLECTIONS

National Book Aid Week runs to Sunday.

Books may be handed in at Heffers, 20 Trinity St, Cambridge; Blackwell, 50 Broad St, Oxford; H.J. Lear, Royal Arcade, Cardiff; Hammick's, Farnham (both branches); Ouakar's, Salisbury and the following branches of Waterstone's: London: Charing Cross Rd, Croydon, Covent Garden, Hampstead, High St, Kensington, Kingston upon Thames, Notting Hill Gate, Richmond, Wimbledon; Aberdeen, Bath (475 Milson St); Birmingham; Bournemouth; Brighton; Bristol (The Golden Lion); Buntingford; Canterbury; Cheltenham; Colchester (University of Essex); Edinburgh (Princes St and George St); Eastbourne; Exeter; Glasgow; Princes Sq; Guildford; J. W. Smith St; Lancaster; Leeds (93 Albion St); Liverpool (52 Bold St); Maidstone; Manchester (Deansgate and St An's Sq); Newcastle; Norwich (St Stephen's St); Nottingham; Perth; Preston; Sheffield; Shrewsbury; Stratford upon Avon; Swindon; Worcester; York.

Larger book donations: Book Aid warehouse (071 713 7281). Please do not send books to *The Times*.

Cheques payable: Book Aid may be sent c/o Waterstone's Ltd, 37 Ixworth Place, London SW3 3QH.

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First prize, return flight to St Petersburg or Moscow, donated by Barry Martin Travel.

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DANIEL JOHNSON

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It is 14

For sale: lock, stock and barrel

Anatole Kaletsky says all Soviet assets must be sold to the people

The travelling circus of foreign ministers has come and gone from Washington. Billions of dollars "worth" of worthless agricultural surpluses has been duly pledged to help Russia and the other former Soviet republics to overcome their non-existent famines and humanitarian emergencies. Meanwhile, proper efforts to support economic reform in Russia have been postponed yet again.

On the eve of the Washington conference, Yegor Gaidar, Russia's deputy prime minister and latest economic supremo, appealed to Western leaders to shift their attention from mere humanitarian assistance to the long-term financial support that will be needed to stabilise the ruble and avert hyperinflation.

The West's public response has

been to promise more agricultural dumping and to announce another conference in June. But behind the scenes, there have been signs of attitudes changing. Russia's admission to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which could release up to \$10 billion a year in international assistance, is expected within months. Proposals for an annual \$20 billion of aid seem quite modest when compared with the

Western world's \$650 billion defence budget, the \$60 billion annual subsidies to eastern Germany or the \$200 billion spent by the American government to bail out its mortgage banks.

But if the idea of offering long-term economic support is gaining ground, there is still great confusion about the form of aid and the conditions to be attached. Mr Gaidar's priority seems to be to make the rouble convertible into other currencies and so avert hyperinflation. Yet convertibility is neither necessary nor sufficient for the avoidance of hyperinflation, as Brazil, Argentina and Israel know only too well.

At least three other conditions have to be satisfied before a hyperinflationary country can hope to stabilise the value of its money: the government must stop spending substantially more than it collects in taxes, the banking system must limit the availability of credit to enterprises and individuals, and there must be a degree of competition in the main markets for goods and services, to ensure that tighter monetary and fiscal conditions are reflected in stable prices, rather than collapsing output.

Unfortunately, none of these three conditions is anywhere near being met in Russia. Last year the Soviet Union's budget deficit was about 20 per cent of national income, according to Susanne Gahler of Morgan Guaranty Trust. This year the Yeltsin government has made some bold moves to cut military spending and abolish costly subsidies, so reducing its planned deficit to around 7 per cent of GDP. But even if Mr Yeltsin can withstand the public clamour to raise wages and pen-



Yegor Gaidar must hold the biggest auction ever

According to Mr Gaidar and his Western advisers, the haemorrhaging budget deficit left the government with no choice but to end subsidies and to free prices immediately, while privatisation is inevitably a slow process. But this seemingly technical argument raises a critical political issue, which the new economic establishment in Russia has got dangerously wrong. The Russians seem determined to take their time over privatisation so as to make sure that businesses are sold at "fair" prices. However, either trying to value companies fairly or selling them to the highest bidder could both lead to disaster. Valuation would inevitably mean delays and legal challenges; auctions would naturally favour corrupt officials and blackmarketeers.

There are only three fair ways of rapidly privatising large parts of a communist economy: sell some businesses to foreign investors; give land and housing directly to their present occupants; or distribute shares in most domestic enterprises, free of charge, to the whole population. To the born-again capitalists who now run Russia and other East European countries, the concept of giving people "something for nothing" through mass privatisations is deeply repugnant. It even smacks of socialism. But mass privatisation is the one way to transform a state-controlled economy quickly into an enterprise economy without giving all the best assets away to the blackmarketeers and *nomenklatura*. The West's key condition to giving financial assistance to Russia and the other republics must now be mass privatisation — and it must start at once.

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it



AFRICA'S PATRONS DEPART

Pliny was wrong: out of Africa always something old. President Mobutu of Zaire was back in the news again yesterday when another bid to topple his regime was ended by those few palace guards still loyal to his fading cause. Mr Mobutu, a dictator for more than two decades, has been holding revolt at bay by promising his people free elections, but these promises have proved as empty as hopes of winter snow in his tropical capital, Kinshasa.

Since September, Mr Mobutu's grip on power has looked increasingly tenuous. His underpaid soldiers have run amok, Western technicians have fled the country and the international lending institutions have long given up hope of retrieving all the good money they have been pouring after bad. Zaire, like many another Cold War client state, has been abandoned by its patrons among the superpowers and international bankers. Chaos has ensued.

The Mobutu regime was one of the many beneficiaries of the Cold War. It will be one of many casualties of its conclusion. Zaire in the parlance of the American State Department, was a "strategic asset" to be denied to the Soviet Union. With the end of colonial rule in Africa, it seemed imperative to Washington to prop up the successor states. Zaire's rich mineral resources had to be kept in friendly hands, which soon, inevitably, meant corrupt ones.

The country became an important conduit for aid to the Unita forces fighting the Soviet-backed government in Angola. The Americans and the former colonial power, Belgium, kept international banks sweet while the French lent paratrophs whenever a provincial rebellion threatened to dismember this artificial state. There were also suspicions that the Soviet Union backed coups in the late 1970s to boost prices. As war scare stories multiplied the Soviets would make a killing selling minerals.

With Western backing, Mr Mobutu built himself 11 palaces and sent billions of dollars in non-commercial loans to Swiss bank accounts. His subjects were left with an average income equivalent to £130 a year, a woeful mortality rate and a government that spent more on presidential perks than on housing, health or education. The rest of the money was spent on the usual Third World

idiocies — nationalisation and prestige projects — creating profits for the ruling class. Now the American administration, prodded by Congress, has reduced its economic assistance and withdrawn military aid. Even relations with Belgium have swiftly deteriorated.

This pattern has been repeated across the continent. For years Washington feared that a communist dominated ANC government would arrive in South Africa on the back of a Cuban tank column. Ethiopia and Somalia took advantage of global naval competition between the superpowers to lease their coastlines in return for modern weapons. With bloated arsenals, these two countries proceeded to fight each other, swap patrons and turn their guns on their own rebelling subjects. Now the Cold War is over both have been left to their own devices, engulfed by famine and anomy.

Meanwhile the oil-rich Arab states no longer feel the need to buy African votes at the United Nations to secure the passing of anti-Israel resolutions. As apartheid in South Africa is swept aside, the front-line states are no longer the lucky beneficiaries of white, liberal solicitude, aid and Soviet support. Time was when African states could rely on a post-colonial superpower patronage to build their infrastructure, or at least subsidise their elites. One superpower has collapsed and the other is devoting its energies to propping it up. Africa must look to the once vilified multi-national companies and even to South Africa for sponsorship, and it will be painful.

The West has come late to accept that poverty neither excuses nor justifies tyranny, torture or corruption," in the words of Britain's aid minister, Lynda Chalker. The political habits of African dictatorships can no longer be dismissed as a legacy of colonialism. Too much water, and blood, has flowed down the Congo for that apology to wash any more. The blame lies with leaders who spend more of their national income on guns than butter, and on outsiders who patronised them with their support and aid. Western governments are at last making assistance conditional on political and economic reform. If Africans wish to call this neo-imperialism, so be it. The time has come for straight talking.

PARADISE MISLAID

The town of Milton Keynes is 25 years old this week. Some congratulation must be in order for those who have striven to coat the Buckinghamshire countryside with grids and plazas. Of all this century's attempts at Utopian settlement, Milton Keynes is perhaps the least arrogant and the most flexible. But the anniversary is none the less a memorial to a tradition of social engineering that must be seen as dead and buried. Hardy, however, to be mourned.

Milton Keynes was the last desperate throw of a generation of British planners who were disaffected of the traditional British towns and cities and had the political power and public money to fashion the environment to their will. Humans, they believed, would be more contented in settlements designed as architectural unities rather than by developing and enlarging existing villages, towns and cities.

While such idealism had its roots in the garden city movement of Raymond Unwin and others at the turn of the century, it flowered with the postwar new-town movement. An eagerness to force large numbers of people out of city centres, shared with authoritarians in less democratic societies, led to the desolation and dereliction of many of Britain's inner cities and the spoliation of millions of acres of countryside.

From Crawley and Corby to Stevenage, Washington and Cumbernauld, new-town blues became a widespread syndrome. Residents, many moved compulsorily and callously, found themselves in single-class towns with poor services and a lack of the communal continuity vital to a humane neighbourhood. Planners disregarded the subtle gradation of relationships implied by extended families, neighbours and friends.

SING FOR VICTORY

Has the fire-breathing dragon of the valleys lost its singing voice? In anticipation of the Welsh rugby team's next fixture against France, an eminent soprano has been hired to lead the once fearsome terrace choir of Cardiff Arms Park in the singing of the Welsh anthem, *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* (*Land of My Fathers*). Poor results in the last year appear to have affected the supporters' laylines and the Welsh Rugby Union wants Beverley Humphries to stop the rot.

Traditional rugby fans may feel that this takes the nadir of "arena opera" one arena too far. The stadiums of the 1990 soccer world cup resounded to the strains of Pavarotti's voice, and Puccini recently made a high-scoring debut at Wembley, in the Royal Opera company's victorious match against Turandot.

The minstrels, warriors and lords of great Snowdon celebrated in the Welsh national anthem would surely hail the WRU's measure as a virtuous bid to revive the glories of the Welsh singing voice. Song has long been an expression of beleaguered nationhood in Wales, part of the country's moral and cultural fabric. Formal assemblies of bards, *esaffodau*, have been held in one form or another since the seventh century, for the conferring of degrees upon musicians and poets.

Gerald of Wales, the 12th century chronicler, praised the precious talents of the native singers he encountered in his native country and their taste for ambitious harmonies. "In their musical contests they do not sing in unison, like the inhabitants of other countries, but in many different parts."

and their juxtaposition with local institutions and services. The architect was god and history was the devil.

Milton Keynes was a final attempt to prove that this idealism could triumph over its critics. It was designed to be a suburban city, some 30 square miles of Buckinghamshire countryside devoted to 250,000 people, every one a car driver. Real care was shown for landscaping, collective services and "desire lines". On its own terms Milton Keynes has not failed, though its public architecture sadly coincided with the barren declining years of the Modern Movement, bequeathing the central area an awful frigidity and bleakness. But there is no reason why, over the coming decades, Milton Keynes should not prove more popular than the concrete monuments to working-class "decaning" of the north of England.

Distinction with such towns today must not lead to a reactionary disillusion with town and country planning as such. The British landscape needs strategic planning if it is not to become a continuous suburban sprawl. Indeed the cardinal sin of the new-towns concept lay in its abuse of both the old towns it neglected and the country it spoiled. The cities of Britain have ample space to meet demand for housing and commercial development, not least at a time of severe property recession. Infilling smaller towns and villages can supplement such demand.

But Britain's countryside, already more cramped than that of any other of the larger nations of Europe, must be safeguarded. Modern planning need not be Utopian to be emphatic. City dwellers and country dwellers have a like interest in protecting the rolling acres of rural Britain from another Milton Keynes.

From Mr David Hollings (Director, Accent Marketing & Research Ltd., Gable House, 14-16 Turnham Green Terrace, W4).

Heritage block

From Mr David Bieda

Sir, Jocelyn Stevens's remarks about English Heritage blocking things (report, January 15), certainly rang a bell here, despite the qualifications in his letter (January 16).

This charity plans to complete a model scheme for environmental improvements in city conservation areas and to publicise the results nationally. We have received enthusiastic endorsement from the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Civic Trust, local authorities and others, and substantial financial commitments from the private sector.

The London division of English Heritage was impressed and helpful

when first approached and offered modest financial support. It has, however, proved impossible to rouse any interest from English Heritage in the proposal as it affects historic areas outside London.

It seems that almost six years after the demise of the GLC and the takeover of its historic buildings responsibilities by English Heritage, there has still been no integration of the old GLC functions or even a proper definition of responsibilities within the merged organisation.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID BIEDA (Chairman), Seven Dials Monument Company Limited, 1 Shorts Gardens, Seven Dials, WC2.

January 16

Decade of Evangelism

From the Bishop of Doncaster and the Bishop of Lichfield

Sir, Clifford Longley's article, "The Decade of Evangelism was never going to work" (January 18), looks pessimistically at the work of the churches for Christian unity and evangelism. There is, however, another way of telling the same story.

It is possible to concentrate on the astonishing improvements in relationships which have taken place between Christians of different denominations; the growth of local co-operation in places where Christians often share together in the administration of baptism, offer each other eucharistic hospitality, share the gift of ministry, care for one another and, most importantly, serve the community together.

It is also possible to look at the Decade of Evangelism from an entirely different perspective. The decade has never been intended as a high-profile exercise, but more as a steady and consistent recovery of the priority of a faithful proclamation of the good news about Jesus in word and action.

It is misleading to suggest that the call for a Decade of Evangelism was

a patronising attempt on the part of the 1988 Lambeth Conference to reassure evangelicals. It arose rather out of the urgent concern of bishops from many other parts of the Anglican Communion: a concern from which we in this country have much to learn.

However, what is most strange in Clifford Longley's assessment is his assumption that renewal is somehow a third activity separable from evangelism and unity. The renewal of the visible life of the Church is a constant and never-ending process and will be until the end of time.

The impetus and insight for renewal comes from an understanding of holy scripture, from the Church's attempt through the centuries to live faithful to the gospel, and from the insights of the contemporary world. In a constant interplay of these, under the power of the holy spirit, the Church is called to renew its life. In the very act of evangelism Christians are to listen before they speak. The holy spirit at work in the world is sometimes ahead of the Church.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Proposals for teaching art and music

From the President of the Royal Academy of Arts

Sir, To those practising artists who have chosen to spend part of their working lives teaching art to different age groups and had hoped to see the best practice of art education reflected in the curriculum, the National Curriculum Council's consultation report on art (details, January 14) must seem a retreat to an obscurantism invented by academics who view the practice of art with the deepest misgivings.

In the meantime, standard fees will provide control over costs, long overdue, and bring benefits to solicitors by allowing quicker payments and a simplified system for these payments, with consequent benefits to their clients.

You sincerely,

JAMES MACKAY,
Lord Chancellor's Office,
House of Lords.
January 22.

From the President of the Law Society

Sir, I welcome your editorial. However, you suggest that solicitors' leaders had been privately expecting "not much beyond 4 per cent" by way of this year's increase in the legal-aid fees. In fact, we expect an increase which is at least sufficient to ensure that legal-aid practitioners' plight is not worsened. The estimate of the likely rise in solicitors' overheads over the next year is a little over 8 per cent. That should be the Lord Chancellor's starting point.

Yours faithfully,

PETER ELY, President,
Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.
January 22.

From Mr P. du P. Langrishe

Sir, I write as a solicitor who did not participate in the "strike" vote (report, January 22) but who does venture from time to time into the local criminal courts. My simplistic contribution to what is a very complicated debate is that, as a defence lawyer, I would not object to ensuring that the legally aided cases in the magistrates' courts hear over a million criminal cases a year (excluding summary motoring cases). Over 600,000 of these were legally aided in 1990. Most cases are short and relatively inexpensive. They are well suited to being paid on a standard basis.

Standard fees for relatively standard blocks of work are not a new approach for lawyers or for others doing professional work. They will still be related to the amount of work done, and will maintain overall the current level of expenditure on criminal legal aid in the magistrates' courts.

The level of these fees must be set to encourage a sufficient number of solicitors to do the work, and to allow them to do the work properly. Special provisions will apply for special cases and accordingly the scheme will not cover all the legally aided cases in the magistrates' courts.

These are matters which I am

presently discussing with the Law Society and the Bar. These discussions are not yet completed. As your leader recognises, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 significantly extended the availability

learning and assessment, while satisfying those who have called for pupils to learn more about the history of art, craft and design.

Might not such a solution also serve to provide a better overall balance in the national curriculum between "knowing how" and "knowing that"?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEERS
(General Secretary),
National Society for Education
in Art and Design,
The Gatehouse, Corsham Court,
Corsham, Wiltshire.

January 17.

From Mr Alan Gates

Sir, Richard Morrison's perceptive article ("Classical culture", January 15) on the nonsense being talked about visual and performing arts in schools scores a bull's-eye. Unfortunately, however, the nonsense is now quite deeply inbred.

The most fruitful way of familiarising pupils with examples of art from the past is to show them illustrations side by side with their own paintings in an appropriate practical context.

It is true that art can be learnt by imitation and has always been so; but to curtail children's opportunity to be creative, which is what they most enjoy, would seem to fly in the face both of tradition and present-day practice.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER de GREY, President,
Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, W1.
January 21.

From Mr John Steers

Sir, Simon Rattle's well publicised condemnation (report, January 17) of the National Curriculum Council's proposals for the teaching of music should not be allowed to obscure the fact that the council has advocated a similarly inappropriate emphasis on theory, rather than practice, for art for five to 14-year-olds.

Analyses of the NCC's recommendations reveals that council has retained virtually all the programmes of study detailed in Lord Renfrew's report; but to these have been added a further collection of programmes of study which detail specific knowledge, mainly of the history of art.

Considering the extra complexity of the NCC's proposals, it is difficult to understand why the council believes that its recommendations will "result in a coherent and manageable art curriculum". It is more likely that teachers — particularly non-specialist primary teachers — will find the NCC proposals very difficult to implement without a massive in-service education programme.

There is an obvious solution which may be acceptable to all concerned: the statutory order could easily be restructured on a three-part model which retains the NCC's attainment target 2 ("knowledge and understanding") and revert to the attainment targets, "making" and "investigating", proposed in Lord Renfrew's report.

The three major railways involved, BR, DB (Germany) and SNCF have, for historical reasons, different fares policies and different operating systems and practices. Inter-railway negotiations would not seem to be a good basis for developing and driving an effective international marketing strategy.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID HOLLINGS (Director),

Accent Marketing & Research Ltd.,

Gable House, 14-16 Turnham Green Terrace, W4.

January 22

Breast-cancer drug trial

From Mr A. Manson

Sir, The first reason given by the secretary of the Medical Research Council (letter, January 16) against funding a proposed national trial of tamoxifen in the prevention of breast cancer is that healthy women, taking a daily tablet of the drug, would be reminded every day that they are at risk.

As one who is already taking part in a pilot trial, I would point out that having close relatives with the disease is a perpetual reminder and that taking the tablets is as nothing compared with the reassurance given by the regular and thorough screening which is also part of the trial.

Yours faithfully,

FRANCES MANSON,

1 Clonmel Road, SW6.

January 16

History of Europe

From Mr Frederic Delouche

Sir, *L'Histoire de l'Europe* is not a "curious EC-subsidised volume", as described in your leader, "History lessons" (January 20). Although we applied for a subsidy from the EC we received none.

Nor was it originally conceived by socialist MEPs. It was conceived seven years ago by me, a private citizen (who is neither socialist nor an MEP) who believes that an understanding by Europeans of their shared history in promoting "institutions, customs and values", as you say, is a prerequisite to greater European integration.

It would be preferable for *The Times* to criticise the "fallacious grand theory" of "this dubious chronicle" after reading it. I hope that British readers will have a chance to decide for themselves if and when, which I hope will be soon, we find a British publisher.

Yours faithfully,

FREDERIC DELOUCHE,
12 Avenue Pierre 1 de Serbie,
75116 Paris.

January 17

Toujours la politesse?

From Mr Robin Ward

Sir, I call the waiter Monsieur or, if young, *jeune homme* but never *garçon*. I call the doctor Monsieur, as do the nurses. I use a man's title the first time — *Monsieur le Maire* — after which it is

Create a pure heart for me and give me a new and steadfast life.
Psalm 51:10 RSV

BIRTHS

ADKINS - On December 16th, 1991, to Elizabeth (Troyer) and Michael, daughter, Louise Vivienne, a sister for William, Catherine and Alice.

BARKER - On January 20th, 1992, to Mark and Mary, a daughter, Ray, a daughter, Orla Mae, a son, Alan.

BARKER - On December 30th 1991, to Mark and Michael, a daughter, Lucy Mary Rose.

CAPRIO - On January 20th, to Louise, a son, Duncan, a brother for Archie.

PUTHERBY - On January 19th, to John, a son, Michael George Frederick.

HARDING - On January 19th, to John and Louise, a daughter, Alice, a son.

KING - On January 21st, to James and Phyllis, a son, James Alexander.

LAWRENCE - On January 4th, to Barbara and Robert, a daughter, Katherine Anna, a sister for Helen.

LINZEE - GORDON - On January 21st 1992, to John and Diane (Dore) Hardy, and Nicholas, a son, Connor Alexander.

MACKAY - are bushido.

MCDOUGALL - On January 22nd, to Greta and Douglas, a son, Douglas, a son, James Sutherland.

HUMMINGTON - On January 21st, at The Royal British Hospital, to Lester (the late Lester and wife), a son, Nicholas Morley.

ROBSON - On January 19th, to Fiona (thea Vessey) and Andrew, a daughter, Sophie Felicity, a sister for Jamie and Gervase.

SANDERS - see Cunningham.

SIMPSON - On January 22nd at St. Sophia's (the late Caruth) and Christopher, a son, Jack (Lidion) (the late Jim) like his Dad.

THOMAS - On January 21st, in Los Angeles, to Cindy and Rupert, a son, Alexander Anthony.

STEELE - On January 17th, to Ann and Julian, a daughter, a son for Thomas and Louise.

TABBERT - On January 20th, to Catherine (the late Sister) and her son, James Angus Fraser.

TAVERNER - On January 22nd, to Deborah (the late Marcus), a daughter, Isabelle, a son for Rebecca and Richard.

TOWNSEND - On January 18th 1992, to Deep and Jeremy, in Ohio, a son, Tim.

TOPP - On January 23rd, to Margaret and John, a daughter, Elizabeth Mary Margaret.

VAN - On January 14th, at The Martha Hospital, The Peak, Hong Kong, Amanda (the late Dutton Forshaw) and Dominic, a daughter, Lucy Emily.

VERGIL - On January 15th at The Hospital, Wellington, to Vassilis and Eleni, a daughter, Emanuela.

WARD - On January 18th, to John, a son, George William, a brother, David, Peter and Sarah.

WOODWARD GENTLE - On Wednesday January 22nd, to John and Betty, a daughter, Priscilla (the late R.N.L.L. St Peter Port, Guernsey).

BOWYER - On January 20th, to Margaret, a son, John, a daughter, Elizabeth Mary Margaret.

WALLINGBANK - The Golden Wedding and for our lovely family, Nevell Wallingbank (the late Gordon) and Sue, Berthoudene, The Cross, London, January 24th, 1942. Now at Meltham, Yorkshire. Wishes and Greetings to all our friends.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

WALLINGBANK - The Golden Wedding and for our lovely family, Nevell Wallingbank (the late Gordon) and Sue, Berthoudene, The Cross, London, January 24th, 1942. Now at Meltham, Yorkshire. Wishes and Greetings to all our friends.

DEATHS

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BOYLE - On January 22nd, 1992 peacefully in her 93rd year, Lady Gertrude Lilian Boyle, of St. Margaret's, Funeral Service at St. Margaret's, Totnes, Devon, at noon on Tuesday January 28th, 1992, at a private cremation, Exmouth, Devon. Mrs Boyle, a son, Donald, a son, A. W. Boyle, a son, Son Ltd., Totnes, 35 Edges Road, Reading.

HOLT - On January 20th, 1992, peacefully at home, Eric, dear husband of Jean, a son, and daughter, a son, wife of Raymond, and mother of Michael, Funeral Service on Tuesday January 28th, 1992 at 11.30am, followed by a private cremation, Totnes. Flowers may be sent to John Taylor, Funeral Service, Totnes, 0803 862 0000.

THOMAS - On January 20th, 1992, peacefully at home, Lord Penrhos, a son, wife of Michael, and mother of Michael, Funeral Service on Tuesday January 28th, 1992 at 11.30am, followed by a private cremation, Totnes. Flowers may be sent to John Taylor, Funeral Service, Totnes, 0803 862 0000.

WYATT - On January 22nd, peacefully at home, Eric, dear husband of Jean, a son, wife of Michael, and mother of Michael, Funeral Service on Tuesday January 28th, 1992 at 11.30am, followed by a private cremation, Totnes. Flowers may be sent to John Taylor, Funeral Service, Totnes, 0803 862 0000.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BURGELEY - A Memorial Service for Maurice Burgeley, C.B.E. will be held at Lincoln's Inn Chapel, on Wednesday January 28th, 1992 at 11.30am.

LEA - A Remembrance Service for Ian Christie, Les will be held on Friday February 7th, 1992 at 11.30am, at the Crematorium, Birmingham.

PLATFORD - Ian Christie's service will be held on Friday February 7th, 1992 at 11.30am, at the Crematorium, Birmingham.

WYATT - On January 22nd, 1992, peacefully at home, Eric, dear husband of Jean, a son, wife of Michael, and mother of Michael, Funeral Service on Tuesday January 28th, 1992 at 11.30am, followed by a private cremation, Totnes. Flowers may be sent to John Taylor, Funeral Service, Totnes, 0803 862 0000.

OLIVER - The Memorial Service for Sir Oliver will be held at St. Bride's Church, EC4, at noon on Tuesday January 28th, 1992 at 11.30am.

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6.00 *Ceefax* (2076). 6.30 *Breakfast News* begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (5007453).

9.05 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on mixed marriages (4457365). 9.55 *Hot Chats*: Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray prepare bolito made with salsa di dragoncello and lentils (2222415).

10.00 *News*, regional news and weather (0412215). 10.05 *Playdays*. For the very young (s) (5122321). 10.25 *Stopit* and *Tidyup*. Animation narrated by Terry Wogan (r) (5222785). 10.35 *No Kidding*. Family quiz show (s) (1095424).

11.00 *News*, regional news and weather. 11.05 *Travel Show Extra*. Holiday ideas from Eastbourne, Sardinia, Snowdonia and Morocco (7515115). 11.20 *People*. *Today*. With: Nina, Myskow, Nigel Dempster and Russell Grant (3077875).

12.20 *Pebble Mill*. Chat and music, the latter provided by the Swingles (2721255). 12.55 *Regional News and Weather* (s) (7250895).

1.00 *One O'Clock News and Weather* (15959).

1.30 *Neighbours*. (*Ceefax*) (s) (4122385). 1.50 *Point*: *When the Legends Die*. (1972). Fine western, rich on atmosphere and strongly acted, about the relationship between a father and his son (Richard Widmark) and a young man (Freddie Fonda). He befriends Director of Stuart Miller (57231165).

3.30 *Cartridges* (r) (6891227). 3.50 *Blitz*. Ideas on recycling household junk (e) (6532227). 4.05 *Jackanory*. Down French with the last part of M.L. Robson's *Dailey Pig* (5200037). 4.25 *The Further Adventures of SuperTed* (r) (1517724). 4.30 *Hanger 17*. Thriller hosted by Mickey Hutton (s) (5004078).

4.45 *Newsround Extras* (7528322). 5.05 *Grange Hill*. Children's school drama series (Ceefax) (s) (6458927).

5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4612222). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster.

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (*Ceefax*) Weather (811).

6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (163). Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*.

7.00 *Wogan*. The guests are Sue Lawley, Maria Hodge and Alan Coren. Music is provided by Buffy Sainte-Marie (s) (206237).

7.35 *Harry and the Hendersons*. Comedy series imported from the United States (Ceefax) (s) (391076). Northern Ireland: *Adventure – Ring of Fire*.

8.00 *Goodness Gracious Me*. The stars of *Are You Being Served?* have been uprooted from the shop floor to a country mansion. Unfortunately, the jokers are the same, including Wendy Richard, John Inman and Mollie Sugden (Ceefax) (s) (397).

8.30 *Caught in the Act*. Share Richie introduces amateur video, cuttakes from home and abroad. (*Ceefax*) (s) (1892).

8.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (*Ceefax*) Regional news and weather (6789).

8.30 *Love Hurts*. Relative Values. Adam Faith, Zoë Wanamaker and Jane Lapotaire star in the fourth episode of the romantic drama series. Tessa finally agrees to have dinner with Frank. (*Ceefax*) (s) (315599).

10.20 *Film: Harry and Son* (1984) starring Paul Newman and Robby Benson. A poignant family drama following the relationship of a hard-working father and his hedonistic son who seem to have nothing in common. Newman also directs. (*Ceefax*) (522057).

Northern Ireland: *Sportscope* 10.45 *Film: Harry Sundown*.



Begging to differ: Robby Benson and Paul Newman (10.20pm)

12.15 *Swiss European Figure Skating*. Barry Davies introduces the free dance routines from Lausanne, Switzerland (6886485).

1.05 *Weather* (5059322). Northern Ireland: 1.00-1.50 *Skating*.

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder using the *Video Plus* remote control. VideoPlus+ is the latest VideoPlus system. To use VideoPlus+ for the programme you wish to record, first dial the VideoPlus+ on 0898 123204 (calls charged at 4p per minute peak, 50p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus+, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. Videoplus+ (9), Pluscode (9) and Video PlusProgrammer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

(484026) 4.40-5.30 *Central Jobbing* (s) (1525249).

GRANADA. As London except: 2.00pm-3.15 *Documentary* (5058929). 5.10-5.40 *Coronation Street* (5122455). 6.00-7.00 *Allegro News* (5058929). 7.00-7.30 *Granada Tonight* (231). 10.40 *Magnificent* (5058929). 11.00-11.30 *Documentary* (5122455). 12.30-1.15 *Dirty Dancing* (5058929).

BORDER. As London except: 1.50pm-3.15 *Film*: *Street* (5058929). 6.00-7.00 *Local News and Weather* (5058929). 7.00-7.30 *Documentary* (5122455). 8.00-8.30 *Granada Tonight* (231). 10.40 *Cobbles*, *Cottages* and *Castles* (5122455). 11.10 *Beauty and the Beast* (5058929). 12.10-1.05 *Animal Kingdom* (5058929). 1.30-2.05 *Documentary* (5122455). 2.30 *GranAltructions* (5058929). 2.55 *Dirty Dancing* (5058929).

HTV WEST. As London except: 1.50pm-2.00pm *The Young Doctors* (5058929). 2.20-2.45 *Midnight* (5058929). 3.00-3.30 *Documentary* (5122455). 4.00-4.30 *HTV News* (5058929). 4.30-5.00 *Documentary* (5122455). 5.30-5.55 *HTV Sportsweek* (231). 10.40 *Phil Marlowe*.

Private Eye (5058929). 6.00-6.30 *Midnight* (5058929). 7.00-7.30 *Documentary* (5122455). 8.00-8.30 *Midnight* (5058929). 8.30-8.55 *HTV News* (5058929). 9.00-9.30 *Documentary* (5122455). 10.30-10.55 *Midnight* (5058929).

HTV WALES. As HTV West except: 8.00pm *Wales at Six* 8.30-8.50 *7-Stop Show* 10.40-11.40 *The LCD* at the Swansea Festival.

TSW. As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 *Documentary* (5058929). 3.25-3.55 *The Countryside Show* (5058929). 5.10-5.40 *Animal Kingdom* (5058929). 6.00-6.30 *Home and Away* (5058929). 7.00-7.30 *Documentary* (5122455). 8.00-8.30 *Central Weekend* (231). 12.10-1.15 *The Equizer* (5058929). 2.05 *Film*: *The Curse of the Fly* (Brian Donlevy, Carole Gray, George Baker) (5058929). 3.40 *The Hit Man* and *Her* (5058929).

CENTRAL. As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 *Documentary* (5058929). 3.25-3.55 *The Countryside Show* (5058929). 5.10-5.40 *Animal Kingdom* (5058929). 6.00-6.30 *Home and Away* (5058929). 7.00-7.30 *Documentary* (5122455). 8.00-8.30 *Central Weekend* (231). 12.10-1.15 *The Equizer* (5058929). 2.05 *Film*: *The Curse of the Fly* (Brian Donlevy, Carole Gray, George Baker) (5058929). 3.40 *The Hit Man* and *Her* (5058929).

ULSTER. As London except: 2.20pm-3.15 *The Sun* (5058929). 3.25-3.55 *The Young Doctors* (5058929). 5.10-5.40 *Animal Kingdom* (5058929). 6.00-6.30 *Documentary* (5122455). 7.00-7.30 *Documentary* (5058929). 8.00-8.30 *Documentary* (5122455). 9.00-9.30 *Documentary* (5122455).

SKY ONE. *Young Orchestra of the World* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026). For sound practical reasons, it is not possible in advance of today's performance of *Young Orchestra of the World* to advise the date of the *Concert of the Avon*. So the Society Orchestra, to press judgment on it. However, a general point can be made about Radio 3's youth orchestra series. Almost without exception, the standard of musicianship has been something to behold and there is no reason to believe that the Avon musicians will be exception to this through the strength of their No 10 in a work of intimidating difficulty.

4.05 *Gransong Lieder*: Five Songs Op. 51; Six Songs, Op. 88; Three Bryton Settings; Op. 56; Five Poems by Mary Howitt; Op. 123; *Contrafacta*; Paul Hemberger; piano (r).

5.00 *Mahler for Pleasure*

5.30 *Music by Arrangement*: John Dankworth makes his final selection of records (r).

7.05 *Third Ear* discusses Andrea Mantegna, the Italian Renaissance painter.

7.30 *RPC*: Live from the Festival Hall, Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Ceefax) (s) (4458026). 8.00-8.30 *French* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026). 9.00-9.30 *Documentary* (5122455).

9.30 *Young Orchestra of the World* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

10.00 *News*: *Daily Service* (LWT) (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

10.30 *10.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

11.30 *11.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

12.30 *12.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

13.30 *13.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

14.30 *14.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

15.30 *15.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

16.30 *16.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

17.30 *17.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

18.30 *18.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

19.30 *19.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

20.30 *20.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

21.30 *21.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

22.30 *22.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

23.30 *23.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

24.30 *24.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

25.30 *25.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

26.30 *26.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

27.30 *27.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

28.30 *28.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

29.30 *29.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

30.30 *30.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

31.30 *31.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

32.30 *32.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

33.30 *33.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

34.30 *34.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

35.30 *35.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

36.30 *36.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

37.30 *37.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

38.30 *38.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

39.30 *39.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

40.30 *40.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

41.30 *41.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

42.30 *42.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

43.30 *43.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

44.30 *44.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

45.30 *45.30 News* (Ceefax) (s) (4458026).

46.30 *46.30 News* (Ceefax) (s)

FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Dealers stunned as final dividend is cut and first interim is withheld

Lonrho reports 24% fall after market close

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

LONRHO, the international trading conglomerate, left the market in a state of "stunned amazement" when it delayed its 1991 profits announcement until after market hours and then revealed that pre-tax profits for the year had fallen by 24.1 per cent to £207 million, and that the final dividend was cut from 8p to 5p a share.

The group further shocked analysts with news that "exceptionally, Lonrho will withhold the first interim dividend of 3p this year". The first interim is traditionally declared and paid at the same time as the final, so effectively the payment to shareholders is more than halved, from 11p a share to 5p.

Lonrho shares, which had risen 13p to 167p earlier in the day, when hopes were raised by news of the group's sale of its share in the Kühne & Nagel business, fell sharply after the 4.30pm announcement. In after hours trading, they were quoted at 115p – a fall of 39p – to test levels not seen since 1986.

Lonrho's activities embrace gold and platinum

mining in Africa, printing British postage stamps and Polish passports, hotels in Mexico and several motor interests. The past year has seen the resignation of Sir Edward du Cann as chairman, and this month's surprise resignation of Terry Robinson, main board director, to join the Vestey group.

Mr Rowland yesterday said: "Your company has been less profitable during the financial year, with a weak second half. It is extremely unusual for your board to offer you disappointing results."

None the less, the profits announcement was made at the unusually late time of 4.30pm, after market hours in London and Johannesburg. The uncertainty about the dividend had kept analysts on tenterhooks throughout the day.

One analyst, however, said separate price sensitive announcements on the same day was not how you expect a major pic to behave.

In recent months, Lonrho shares have been a nervous market, partly because of the "tycoon factor", but also because of weaker metal prices and the concern about the impact of recession on the group's diverse consumer-related interests.

The shares have fallen from a 12-month high of 277p last April, and touched a four-year low of 142p on January 16.

Lonrho added that its current capital investment programme is "winding down", and certain development plans have been deferred. At the Metropole Hotel, London, phase three is not now going ahead because "the board is not satisfied that this is the best time".

Lonrho says it remains committed to Germany, has won a £14 million contract to print Polish passports, and that in Russia it now employs 500 people. Year-end gearing stood at 70 per cent and will fall to 60 per cent. "We are not dispirited," Lonrho added, "but we have to face up to the fact that there is a recession, and that life is difficult."

Comment, page 25

Fayed brothers fail to prevent panel hearing

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE Fayed brothers have failed in a High Court attempt to block disciplinary proceedings against them by the City takeover panel in connection with their acquisition of the House of Fraser stores group. Lord Justice Watkins rejected their application for a judicial review, saying their case was "unanswerable". The Fayed brothers are considering an appeal.

David Oliver, QC, for Mohammed, Salah and Ali Fayed, argued that the disciplinary hearing should be adjourned until after the conclusion of a court action launched against the Fayed brothers by Lonrho, where Tiny Rowland is chief executive. Lonrho lost a 1985 takeover

battle for House of Fraser, which includes Harrods.

Mr Oliver said it would be "a travesty of justice" if the enquiry went ahead before the court case. Lonrho alleges fraud and claims damages for conspiracy and "unlawful interference with business" by the Fayed brothers and Kleinwort Benson, their financial advisers.

Dismissing the application with costs, Lord Justice Watkins said the takeover panel and the Fayed brothers were "in collision".

At the heart of the disciplinary hearing is the question of whether the Fayed brothers made statements about their wealth during the battle for House of Fraser that were misleading.

Comment, page 25

City downgrades Burton

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BURTON Group, the fashion retailer where Laurence Cooklin is chief executive, has been downgraded by analysts after shareholders were told at the annual meeting that sales in the first half of the year were only 1 per cent better than in the same period last year.

The figure includes a 5 per cent rise in Christmas sales, achieved by discounting prices and at some expense to the gross margin.

Burton's news was received with mixed feelings by retail analysts but led to a series of profit downgradings even by

the more bullish followers of the stock. Paul Morris, of Goldman Sachs, cut his forecast for the year to end August from £22 million to £18 million. A buyer of Burton, he says any sales increase must be viewed positively. "Because Burton is a highly optimised, highly geared, 1 per cent movement on the sales line affects profits by £1 million," he said.

Kimber Cook, of County NatWest, rates the shares a "sell" and cut her profit forecast heavily. Most of the City is looking for profits between £10 million and £15 million.

Cooklin: sales edge up

date than a one-off larger purchase. With the threat of redundancy looming over so many households, Park's customers know that at least Christmas will be assured.

The group sold 1.4 million hampers last Christmas, with the average spend per customer rising by 33 per cent. This has allowed Park to forecast an increase in the total dividend of 62 per cent in the current year. Peter Johnson, the group's chairman, who owns around 70 per cent of the company, will be entitled to £900,000 in dividends.

Park which made a traditional first half pre-tax loss of £4.39 million, is on course to make full-year profits of around £6 million in the current year, up from £3.99 million last time.

MITIE Group raised its pre-tax profits by 53 per cent to £726,000 over the six months to end-September. The company says organic growth was largely responsible for its 28 per cent advance in turnover to £22.2 million. The interim dividend is raised from 1p to 1.25p.

per share, as earnings climb from 4.9p to 5.1p per share, on an enlarged share capital.

David Telling, MITIE's chief executive said: "In a recession a lot of companies cut ancillary services and put them out for tender, but you have to be competitive. We are increasing our order book in engineering, and more particularly in cleaning. On an annualised basis, we have picked up £7 or £8 million in cleaning orders, with a similar amount for engineering. We are feeling quite confident about the future."

MITIE is also expanding in Scotland with the acquisition of Trident Maintenance Services, a Scottish commercial painting and decoration business, for up to £2.5 million. There is an initial payment of £400,000 for 58 per cent of Trident, to be satisfied by a vendor placing of 242,000 shares, at 165p per share. Trident made post-tax profits of £33,800 in the year to end-March 1991, with assets of £206,000.

Food for thought at Christmas

BY OUR CITY STAFF

CHRISTMAS hampers and office cleaning appear to be two businesses which are recession-proof, judging by figures announced yesterday. Park Foods and MITIE Group appear not only to be surviving the recession, but thriving on it.

Park Foods saw its share price jump 12.5 per cent to 483p yesterday on a bullish statement about its Christmas hamper business while MITIE Group, the engineering, cleaning and maintenance company, is reaping the benefits as numerous companies, under pressure from the economic downturn, cut their own ancillary service operations and put them out for tender.

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Park runs a scheme whereby customers subscribe a few pounds a week throughout the year and receive a Christmas hamper packed with goodies in December. When times are tough, customers find the enforced weekly savings of a small sum easier to accommo-



Pause for thought: Tiny Rowland reflects on Lonrho's disappointing results

Staff to be cut by 800 at Sun Alliance

BY NEIL BENNETT

SUN Alliance, Britain's largest composite insurance group, is shedding 800 jobs and closing more than a third of its branch network in an effort to reduce costs.

The company confirmed yesterday that it plans to reduce its staff by 6 per cent to 13,000 this year. This will include the 300 jobs that will be lost with the closure of 39 small branches over the next five months.

A spokeswoman confirmed that those closures will cause some redundancies, although Sun hopes to redeploy staff and encourage others to take early retirement. After the closures, Sun's non-life sales and customer service operations will be based at 50 branches.

The remainder of the cuts are expected to be made throughout the group's operations, including head office staff and management.

Sun's costs were £462 million in 1990. City analysts estimate that the group is trying to reduce expenses by £25 million. Last year, Sun shed 400 jobs by moving its personal insurance processing to a computerised centre at Oldham, Lancashire.

Sun said that the job losses and closures would have no impact on its profit and loss account this year, but that the benefits would begin to show in 1993. The group said the rationalisation was not linked with heavy losses in the insurance industry.

Kevin Phillips of Kleinwort Benson, estimates that the group lost £430 million last year due to heavy claims. Another £122 million of losses are expected this year.

Sun's decision was denounced by the Banking Insurance and Finance Union. Bifu, which has 1,000 members at Sun, will meet the group's management soon.

The Confederation of British Industry has estimated there will be 30,000 jobs lost in the financial services industry this year.

Most of the main banks and insurance groups are being forced to make significant cuts in their costs and are investing heavily in new technology to replace administrative staff. Bifu plans to lobby Parliament on the issue in March.

Blockbuster wins in its £75m bid for Cityvision

BY MARTIN WALLER

BLOCKBUSTER, the American video rental group, has won its £75 million bid for Cityvision, the biggest British rental chain, after the defeat of an institutional revolt at Cityvision.

By the closing date, Blockbuster had acceptances for more than 50 per cent of the shares allowing the offer to go unconditional.

Three former executives of Cityvision, including David Quayle, founder of the B&Q DIY retail chain, had been attempting to lead a "management vote-in", with support from institutions holding 20 per cent of the shares, and to have existing management removed. Blockbuster's success with its bid will pre-empt this.

Ray Hipkin, one of the three, was philosophical. He said: "We're in the real world – business is business. It's gone and good luck to them."

The rebels are not now expected to contest the result and continue as dissident shareholders, but are likely to accept the bid in respect of their holdings. Mr Hipkin and his partner, Phillip Crane, who sold their video businesses to Cityvision during its swift growth in the late-Eighties, hold 350,000 shares between them.

There was relief and some surprise in the Cityvision camp. Existing directors of Cityvision are believed to have been badly rattled by the

support that Mr Hipkin and Mr Crane could draw on. Outsiders had not expected Blockbuster to clinch the bid at the first closing date.

The result is a victory for H Wayne Huizenga, the American entrepreneur who founded Blockbuster after building Waste Management, his first business, into the world's biggest waste disposal group.

The rebels had intended to

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MMC will pay closer attention to utilities

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission is likely to play a much bigger role in the affairs of privatised companies, especially monopoly utilities, Sir Sydney Lipworth, the MMC chairman, said yesterday. The commission was entirely neutral about more references of privatised companies, "but we must expect disputes between companies and their regulators and we can arbitrate".

The commission does not, however, like to be seen as posing the threat of drastic action that overhangs privatised companies in their dealings with other regulators. Both BT and British Gas have recently agreed last-minute regulatory deals, with

Optimism lifts shares in Airtours

SHARES in Airtours, the holiday company, rose 7p to 903p on an upbeat trading statement from David Crossland, the chairman.

At the company's annual meeting yesterday, Mr Crossland told shareholders that sales in the first three months of the current financial year were up on the same period in the previous year. Winter and summer season order intake are more than 90 per cent higher than last year, which was adversely affected by the Gulf war.

The company said it is raising prices across its product range. Mr Crossland also reported that the company's airline will take delivery of three more aircraft in the spring, substantially increasing profitability.

Ransom rises

William Ransom & Son, the Hertfordshire manufacturer of chemist, lifted pre-tax profits 6.8 per cent to £25,000 in the half year to end-September, despite stiff price competition, on sales of £3.17 million (£2.99 million). Earnings climb from 1p to 1.16p per share. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.525p. The shares responded with a 6p rise to 43p.

Cook dives

DC Cook Holdings, the motor dealer and property developer, is paying an interim dividend of 0.2p (nil) despite sharply lower first-half profits. The USM quoted company reported pre-tax profits of £107,000 in the half year to end-October, against £350,000 last time. Earnings fell to 0.31p (1.15p) per share with fully diluted earnings down to 0.33p (1.19p).

Scapa control

Scapa Group, the industrial fabrics maker, said it controlled 98.4 per cent of Scandiafelt, the Swedish firm. In November, Scapa made a 370 million kronor (£36 million) recommended bid for Scandiafelt, which makes fabrics for the pulp and paper industry.

Policies to help Bush win election find no favour

Bonn will defy US calls to ease

By COLIN NAKERDHOUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

Pöhl: call to resist

ca when the two countries' central banks conducted joint intervention to keep the dollar from rising against the yen. Tsutomu Hata, the Japanese finance minister, has nevertheless undermined the primacy of domestic economic conditions, indicating that there was no enthusiasm in Tokyo for policies mainly tailored to American needs.

There is scant evidence that America is responding to lower interest rates and Washington has tried to prevent the dollar from appreciating. It fears that a stronger currency would suck in imports and throttle export growth.

Japan, under intense pressure during President Bush's recent visit, operated in close concert with Ameri-



No preconceived ideas: Sir Sydney says the commission will look at each case on its merits

Scott's Hospitality takes on Marriott franchise

By MATTHEW BOND

SCOTT'S Hospitality, the Canadian group that until last month ran almost half of Bass's Holiday Inn chain in Britain, has reached a new master franchise agreement with Marriott Corporation, the American hotel chain.

The agreement means that Marriott, which currently runs only 23 hotels outside America including two in Britain, will soon become a familiar name in the British hotel market.

Under the new agreement, 13 former Holiday Inns will switch to the Marriott brand, including the London hotels at Marble Arch and Swiss Cottage, and the Holiday Inn Glasgow.

Scott's, which owns and operates its hotels, parted company with Holiday Inns after it failed to "sealate a territorial franchise" that would have given it control of the Holiday Inn brand in

Britain. At the time, Holiday Inns, which has 1,600 hotels around the world, said that such agreements were not company policy.

However, Marriott has proved more amenable and has granted Scott's exclusive franchises for two of its brands, the four-star Marriott Hotels and the three-star Courtyard by Marriott. A hotel nearing completion at Slough, Berkshire, will become the first Courtyard by Marriott outside America when it opens in March.

Ed Fuller, managing director of Scott's Lodging, said: "Marriott has long said it desired a larger presence in Great Britain and we are delighted to have forged this alliance with Scott's Hotels, which shares our management philosophies, marketing focus and strong commitment to quality."

The deal with Scott's means initially there will be ten four-star Marriott Hotels in Britain, from Aberdeen to Bristol, with an 11th opening in Leeds next year. The number of Courtyard by Marriott should quickly rise to seven, although four, including the almost-finished hotel at Slough, are still in the process of construction.

Engineers' pay deals still fall

By DEREK HARRIS

PAY settlement levels continued their downward slide in the final quarter of last year, according to the Engineering Employers' Federation. December saw a drop in median levels to 4 per cent, less than half the level of the final quarter of 1990.

The trend to nil pay settlements, or deferred ones, continued during the quarter. The federation monitored nearly 200 settlements in the beleaguered engineering sector and found nine where there will be no pay rises within the foreseeable future.

Five additional short-term deferrals emerged late, in addition to the 25 nil or deferred deals recorded in the quarterly figures.

In the third quarter of last year, the median level had been at 5 per cent, but in the final quarter the median — taking the three months together — had slipped to 4.93 per cent.

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury has lost tax revenue worth £2.1 billion from the dramatic drop in car sales in the last two years.

Figures out last night show that the government has paid the price of its tough budget policies on the motor industry in sharply falling tax revenue, reflecting lost sales of almost a million vehicles since 1989.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents Britain's 13,000 motor dealers, said the losses outweighed gains derived from tax increases on company car drivers and other measures in the 1991 Budget.

Neil Marshall, the RMI's chief economist, said: "There is no doubt that the motor industry has hit so hard that it has been unable to withstand the shock. The irony is that the Treasury too has suffered because of the huge impact in showrooms."

In addition to VAT of 17.5 per cent, the Treasury levies a 10 per cent special tax on the price of a new car, the only purchase tax of its type in Europe, which can cost buyers about £800 on an ordinary family saloon.

However, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has warned the Chancellor that the tax is a deterrent to buyers and must be abolished.

Sir Hal Miller, SMMT chief executive, said getting rid of the tax in the March 10 Budget could create an extra 175,000 sales this year.

Without a stimulus, there would be further job losses.

Macarthy cuts payout

By MARTIN BARROW

MACARTHY, the pharmaceuticals retailer and manufacturer awaiting the outcome of a monopolies commission enquiry into two unsolicited bids, has reduced its total dividend from 12.5p a share to 10p, despite a 15 per cent rise in profits.

The company is recommending a final payment of 5p, down from last year's comparable 7.5p. In the 12 months to end-September, pre-tax profits rose from £4.6 million to £5.3 million and earnings from 11.6p a share to 13.8p. Ian Parsons, the chief executive, said the company sought to establish "an appropriate dividend cover base".

Macarthy shares fell 3p to 279p. Lloyds Chemist has said it will offer less than 306p a share if clearance is granted by the MMC. Uni-Chem may also bid again.

Tempus, page 24

Nestlé forecasts higher profits

FROM REUTER IN SWITZERLAND

NESTLÉ, the Swiss food group, said consolidated sales rose 9 per cent to SFr50.5 billion (£19.9 billion) in 1991, from SFr46.3 billion the previous year. Profits for the year were also expected to be up. Turnover improved in all parts of the world except the Gulf region. Currency factors and several small acquisitions also boosted the sales figure.

He said: "We are very pleased with the whole Marriott deal, because it gives us greater control over our own destiny." He was confident

that customers who had enjoyed staying with Scott's-run Holiday Inns would switch to Scott's-run Marriot. "Once they try it, I am sure they will like it and stay with us."

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desired a larger presence in Great Britain and we are delighted to have forged this alliance with Scott's Hotels, which shares our management philosophies, marketing focus and strong commitment to quality."

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STOCK MARKET

GEC speculation boosts BAe price

SUGGESTIONS that GEC may take advantage of the recent weakness in the British Aerospace share price to acquire a stake in the company lifted BAe shares 14p to 298p, on turnover of 6.3 million shares. The shares have been in steady decline for most of this month. The delay in confirming the al-Yarmouth contract, this week's A320 Airbus crash and continued institutional disenchantment had combined to take their toll on the price.

The flurry of activity in BAe also reflected hectic trading in the traded options market where one large buyer purchased 2,000 calls, equivalent to 2 million shares. This succeeded in fuelling the speculation.

At the time of last year's controversial rights issue, there was speculation that GEC would make a bid for the company. GEC has admitted talking in the past to Professor Sir Roland Smith, BAe's former chairman. However, it has always ruled out the possibility of a full bid, indicating that it would prefer closer co-operation between the two companies. Dealers say that one way of obtaining a closer working relationship with BAe would be for GEC to buy a near 30 per cent stake in the company.

At its peak last year, BAe

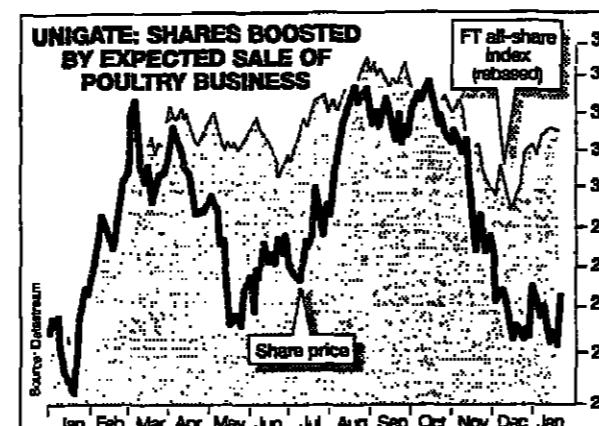
shares were trading at 653p, but slumped below 300p after the rights issue. GEC lost an early lead to finish 2p to 197p.

The rest of the equity market failed to hold on to a Wall Street-inspired mark-up, with prices closing well below their best as fund managers continued to ponder the forthcoming general election and the troubled economy.

The FT-SE 100 index, up more than 15 points early in the day, closed 3.3 points ahead at 2,525.3, as 575 million shares changed hands.

Government securities regained some of their poise with gains of about 14p to 17p.

Lorrio raised a few eyebrows in after-hours trading by cutting the final dividend and scrapping the first interim payment for the current year. The news coincided with a drop in full-year pre-tax profits from £273 million to a worse than expected £207 million. There had been speculation that a dividend cut was on the cards, but the news earlier in the day that the group had sold its 50 per cent stake in Germany's Kuehne and Nagel for £118 million eased some of those fears. Dealers took their irritation out on the share price, which fell 39p to 115p, after briefly touching 157p, with



almost 7 million shares traded. Market-makers increased their spreads, the difference between the bid and offer, from 4p to 7p.

Fisons fell a further 6p to 57p in the wake of its meeting with analysts on Wednes-

Sage, the computer software group, advanced 23p to 377p by a resurgence of institutional support. County NatWest WoodMac, the stockbroker, likes the shares so much it has begun recommending them on two fronts. The brokers' electrical team is pushing the shares to clients. The smaller companies desk is doing the same, with the business capitalised at only £75 million.

Strauss Turnbull, the stockbroker, has downgraded its forecast of pre-tax profits for 1992 by £19 million to £220 million and for next year by £15 million to £275 million. Strauss is worried that the Food and Drug Ad-

ministration's inspection of the group's production methods may be delayed. Analysts believe any delay could have adverse effects on the group's profitability.

Wellcome continued to make headway, boosted by

the £30 million asking price.

Unigate has had a 'for sale' notice up over the company for the past year and market whispers claim a deal may soon be struck. This deal would allow Hillsdown to reduce costs and make the business more efficient.

Ranks Hovis McDougall fell 14p to 215p after a gloomy annual meeting. Sir Stanley Metcalfe, chairman, reiterated that conditions in the bread industry and in America remained difficult and would affect profitability.

Analysts say a price war has broken out in baking and milling and believe RHM will attempt to maintain market share at whatever cost.

Burton Group slipped 2p to 35.5p, despite telling shareholders that it had reversed the slowdown in sales, which has badly affected profits. Sir John Hoskyns, chairman, told the annual meeting that sales were up 1 per cent since the start of the year, with Christmas sales up 5 per cent. However, he remained "extremely cautious" about prospects. Last year, the group saw pre-tax profits tumble from £146 million to £11 million.

"UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, is urging clients still wishing to invest in stores to concentrate on the traditionally defensive issues, such as Kingfisher, up 8p to 507p. Marks and Spencer, 2p better at 294p, and Boots, 4p harder at 445p.

MY Holdings firm 1p to 39p after John Monks, chief executive of the USM-quoted board and plastics packaging group, told the annual meeting he was confident about continued recovery following better than expected first-quarter trading. Analysts forecast current year profits of between £1 million and £1.2 million, against £1.47 million last time.

MICHAEL CLARK

TEMPUS

Euro Disney prepares to ride the big dipper

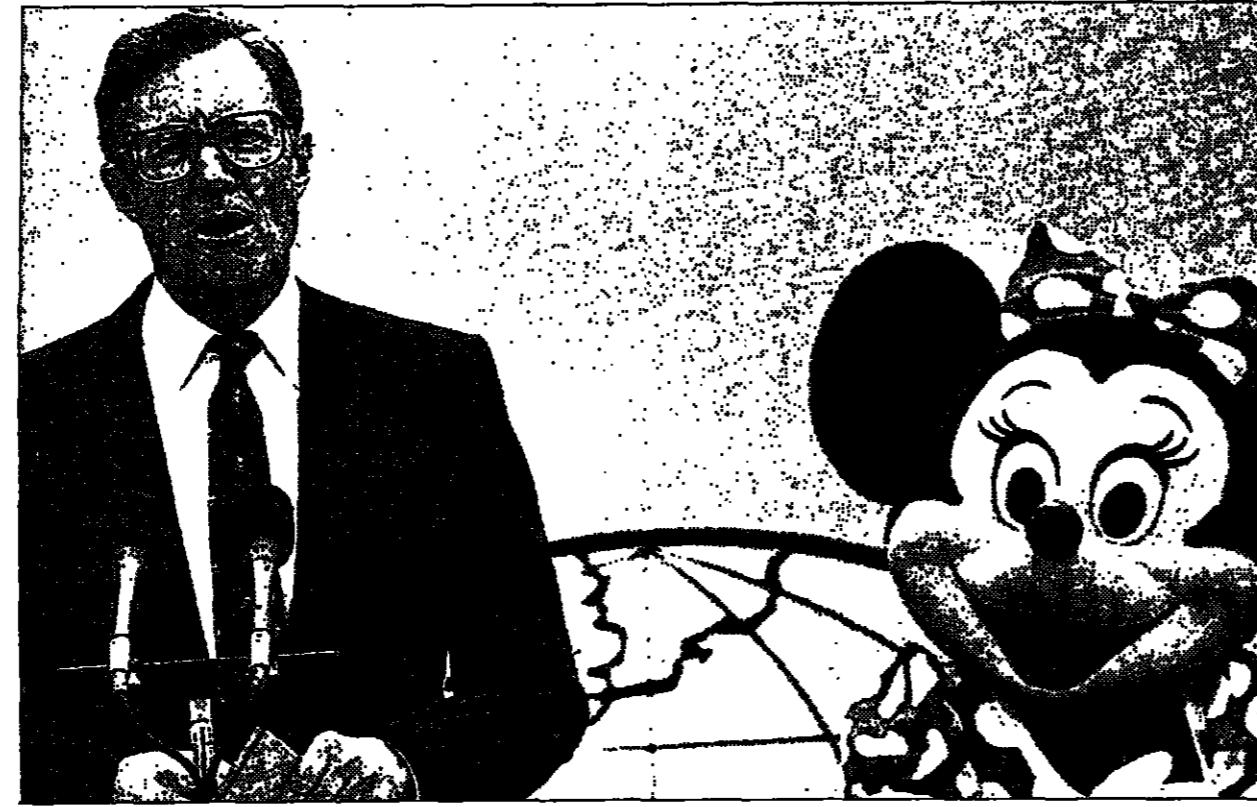
BRITISH investors who agreed to stump up £150 million for their share of the Euro Disneyland share issue could be forgiven for wondering at a certain lack of communication from the Paris headquarters since.

The London market has been something of the poor relation since the flotation, while much of the action and the juiciest rumours having taken place on the Paris bourse. The most notorious example, a little more than a year ago, was the news circulated to French investors but rather slower to make it over to this side of the Channel, that the company planned to make a £500 million issue of fresh capital.

Since then, the London market has been getting its own back, with suggestions that the April opening may be delayed by picking contractors claiming cost overruns.

Full-year figures, published yesterday and prepared according to French accounting principles as they relate to a concern that has yet to earn a sou, are of little relevance, although it is significant that the company paid its first income tax last year. Euro Disney is 49 per cent owned by the American Walt Disney corporation, whose president, Frank Wells, launched the issue in 1989.

The row with the builders is over sums totalling just £850 million, a small proportion of the £2.2 billion total cost, and is merely the kind of contractual bickering familiar to anyone who has ever tried to get a kitchen fitted or a Channel Tunnel constructed. The park faces its biggest test when the first customers go through the turnstiles this summer, and, carefully scrutinised, will be a good time to take profits.



Mouse guests: Frank Wells, Walt Disney president, and Minnie will be scrutinising turnstile numbers

though she says this could be achieved by asset sales. Shareholders have seen their initial investment of 707p more than double to yesterday's close of £14.55p, just a week off the £15.20 peak. The shares will benefit from forthcoming publicity about the opening, but smaller investors may be tempted to sell ahead of this. Now might be a good time to take profits.

Park Foods

CHRISTMAS cheer in the retail sector was as rare as snow in July, so it was no surprise that the market marked up Park Food shares 54p to 483p yesterday after a gleeful statement from Peter Johnson, chairman, about the company's trading during the festive season.

Park Foods sells Christmas hampers via a savings scheme operating throughout

the year. This Christmas, Mr Johnson sold 1.4 million hampers. The scheme means cash comes in throughout the year and allows the group to estimate sales for the year with a fair degree of accuracy.

So confident is Mr Johnson that he is forecasting a final dividend of not less than 8p per share, a 40 per cent increase on last time. This is on top of an interim dividend that has jumped 117 per cent to 5p. In total, this year's dividend will rise 62 per cent to 13p, a yield of 3.6 per cent if Park achieves its forecast.

Park Foods is confident that when the recession ends, the group will continue to grow. The market is not yet mature, he says. Analysts are more sceptical.

Assuming full-year profits of about £6 million for the year to March 1992, the shares are trading on a price/earnings ratio of 12.4.

Not only did Mr Johnson sell more hampers last Christmas, but his customers also spent, on average, 33 per cent more. Despite being only a month into the new year, Mr Johnson is bullish about Christmas 1992, orders for which are showing significant increases over last year.

Frosts may receive an extra boost this year if Park changes its accounting policy and writes off outstanding goodwill through reserves, rather than through the profit and loss account.

Mr Johnson is confident that when the recession ends, the group will continue to grow. The market is not yet mature, he says. Analysts are more sceptical.

The company has charged £3.12 million against defence costs as an extraordinary item, absorbing a large portion of pre-tax profits of £5.3 million for the year ended September.

If Mr Johnson's optimism is justified, they are unlikely to fall much below this, and while some profit-taking is likely, they could well rise above 15p. A five-for-one subdivision of the shares will enhance marketability.

Macarthy

LAST year will be best forgotten by Macarthy: its retail business slumped in the Gulf war and it was obliged to pay Nicholas Ward, a former chairman, £430,000 in compensation. Then came unsolicited bids from three suitors and an acrimonious exchange with its main supplier.

The company has charged £3.12 million against defence costs as an extraordinary item, absorbing a large portion of pre-tax profits of £5.3 million for the year ended September.

Both Lloyds Chemists and UniChem have made significant acquisitions since their bids lapsed and may not remain as much appetite for Macarthy. Thus, despite an enhanced earnings outlook, it would be unreasonable to expect Lloyds, the favourite and the 9.9 per cent shareholder, to go higher than last year's 306p, although a higher proportion of cash than the original 21p a share may be required. Whether Lloyds' own shareholders will agree is another matter.

Ecu the likeliest candidate as common currency for former Soviet republics

Younger generation helps Ukraine stand on its feet

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

TWO months after the declaration of independence, Ukraine's economic and monetary policy is slowly taking shape, aided by diaspora advisers and a younger generation of bankers trained outside the restraints of Soviet economics.

Ukrainian enterprises earning hard currency will, within ten days, receive instructions to begin depositing profits in national bank accounts to build up the republic's reserves. These are currently negligible after the loss of half a billion dollars of export profits that were banked with the Soviet Vnesh-ekonombank.

Teams from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are already in Kiev. A key question facing the republic's government and national bank, as well as those of Russia and other former Soviet republics, is whether to adapt a clearing system for trade between the republics, which are still heavily interdependent. Monopoly producers supply 30 to 40 per cent of the former Soviet Union's output.

"If the rouble and grynya will not be freely convertible, we will need a clear-

ing mechanism to facilitate inter-republican transactions," said George Yurchyshyn, deputy director of the national bank. The most likely contender for the clearing system common currency at present is the ecu.

Mr Yurchyshyn, aged 51, is a western expert of Ukrainian origin who has returned to help develop the republic's financial and government institutions. Formerly a senior vice-president of Bank of Boston, he has been seconded to Kiev for a year from a Boston capital management firm.

Mr Yurchyshyn's role with the national bank will be in building up its foreign exchange division and strengthening its links with western banks and financial institutions. He joked: "I speak three languages: English, Ukrainian and banking."

Directors of the national bank hope that formal membership of the IMF can be attained within six months. By that time, the government plans to have introduced a Ukrainian national currency, the grynya.

The first test of the government's reformist willpower will be in controlling the supply of the Ukraine's cou-

poms, a "surrogate money" which, by next month, will replace the rouble for all transactions in the republic. The government has decided to allow workers to be paid in coupon cheques, increasing the danger that the coupons could become inflation-prone as the rouble.

For Ukraine's 52 million people, independence was marked by a botched price liberalisation. Guaranteed profits of 25 per cent on goods sold has induced many shop managers, who lack knowledge of what a market is, to raise prices even further, pushing some basic supplies out of reach of the average citizen.

Promises by the republic's president, Leonid Kravchuk, to lower state-subsidised prices on goods such as milk and bread have yet to be implemented. Although 30 per cent of goods can still be bought for roubles, state shops sell products exclusively for coupons, which first went into wage packets in December.

Confusion over the coupons remains general. Vladislav Yurukov, Ukraine's deputy economic minister, said: "No ministry is going to be able to define the price index of January or February."



Unfulfilled promises: Leonid Kravchuk, the president

WORLD MARKETS

Late profit taking restrains Nikkei

Tokyo — Shares rose for a second day to close slightly firmer in volatile trade. Continued bargain hunting and expectations of easier credit boosted prices, but late profit-taking and institutional caution helped pull the Nikkei back from the day's highs, brokers said.

Paul Migliorato, of Jardine Fleming Securities, said: "It's encouraging to see the market holding on to yesterday's gains. Foreigners have been aggressive buyers of blue chips, but the rally doesn't have the strength to move from sector to sector."

The Nikkei average rose 46.60 points, or 0.22 per cent, to 21,580.72, with about 250 million shares traded.

Waking to news of Wall Street's rebound and boosted by renewed bargain-hunting, the Nikkei opened 54.72 points above Wednesday's close of 21,534.12. Although the average briefly drifted into negative territory, it soon regained upward momentum, peaking at 21,794.17 in early afternoon.

Futures and options-related

Dow starts to recover

New York — Blue chips recovered some opening losses and looked set to move into positive figures as investors bought shares that were weakened by early profit-taking, analysts said. The broader market remained firm.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 1.56 points down at 3,254.25, up from a low of 3,244. Gaining shares slipped during the day to be revived pending clearance from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. MacCarthy, which has been in a bid situation since May 1991, must do it all over again.

Against this background, a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits and a 19 per cent rise in earnings to 13.8p a share is creditable and reflects the company's potential, now that the new management under Ian Parsons, chief executive, has got its grip with the core businesses, encumbered by a lacklustre wholesaling operation.

The revitalised pharmaceuticals division lifted profits 41 per cent to £3.7 million. The retail pharmacy business slipped from £4.47 million to £3.9 million but this reflects the uncertainty of suppliers during the bids almost as much as the impact of depressed consumer spending.

A final dividend of 5p reduces the total from last year's uncovered 12.5p to a more sustainable 10p. The shares closed at 279p, down just 2p.

Joanne Walton, an analyst at Lehman Brothers, estimates MacCarthy could make profits of £5.8 million and earnings of 15.5p a share this year. This forecast, however, is almost academic, for the concern is unlikely to see out the year as an independent company.

Both Lloyds Chemists and UniChem have made significant acquisitions since their bids lapsed and may not remain as much appetite for Macarthy. Thus, despite an enhanced earnings outlook, it would be unreasonable to expect Lloyds, the favourite and the 9.9 per cent shareholder, to go higher than last year's 306p, although a higher proportion of cash than the original 21p a share may be required.

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Lonrho dashes dividend hopes

Rowland will have fewer friends in the City this morning, even if his band of country followers stays loyal — not only because of the cut in the final dividend from 8p to 5p a share and the passing of the 3p first interim, but because of the unsatisfactory way Lonrho yesterday chose to make its public announcements.

The debate about whether Lonrho's final dividend would be safe has exercised analysts' minds for weeks, and the share price has suffered accordingly. The market was told, mid-morning that year-end results would be held back until 4.30 pm, which compounded the uncertainty. Then at noon, Lonrho made what was seen as an encouraging statement that it was selling its 50 per cent stake in Kühne & Nagel for a total cash consideration of DM340 million.

The market interpretation was that the final dividend for 1991 would, after all, be safe and there was short-lived comfort that perhaps all was not as bad as feared. That the 1991 pre-tax profits fell as much as they did, from £273 million to £207 million, was an added shock. Weak metal prices and the recession were factors beyond Lonrho's control, as were the effects of the Gulf war that kept tourists at home and dented consumer spending.

In City-Lonrho relationships, few years have been good, but the past 12 months have been worse than usual. There was the resignation last August, for reasons unconnected with Lonrho, of Sir Edward du Cann, the chairman, and Terry Robinson has also gone. René Leclezio, the new chairman, might be 'Mr Sugar' in the Indian Ocean, but is virtually unknown in the City.

Whoever finally takes over the dominant role at Lonrho that is currently the preserve of Tiny Rowland, the chief executive, has an unenviable task. Mr Rowland should ensure that his successor's task is made no more difficult than necessary by improving communications with the City.

Stags lose out

Judging from statistics, the government can look investors in the eye over its privatisation programme and might even hope for a thank you come election time. A study by Peter Curwen and David Holmes in the latest National Westminster Bank quarterly review suggests that investors who bought £300 worth of shares on each of the 26 occasions the government has asked them to stump up since 1979 enjoyed a compound annual rate of return of 23.8 per cent up until the end of September. This comfortably outperformed investing in the all-share index, which showed an annual return before capital gains tax of 19.1 per cent.

Indeed, privatisation would have done much more for those who truly invested in the stocks, at a total presumed cost of £7,800, than for the smart folk who simply tried to make a quick return by taking £300 from the building society, selling the privatised stock on day one and putting the money back. Excluding the doomed 1987 BP sale and two tender issues, that would have generated a worthwhile average of 6.0 per cent, amounting to £1,556 altogether, or £2,431 with reinvestment of the profits in a building society. In terms of return, that is pretty good, but it was no way to get rich, especially as allocations were low on some of the most stageworthy issues. In practice, most investors will not have done so well. Some of the best returns were on early issues, such as AB Ports, which were not aimed at a mass market, while, as the authors admit, the popular utility stocks have had a hard time since September as regulators bared their teeth and the election loomed.

Dryden Gilling-Smith calls for the issue of long-term, index-linked bonds, to the mutual benefit of both borrower and lender

Index-linked gilt-edged stocks were first issued in Britain just over ten years ago. In 1981, inflation was expected to fall and it made good sense for the Exchequer to borrow on a low index-linked interest coupon instead of locking into the historic high interest rates that were then having to be offered on new issues of conventional government bonds.

We are now in a parallel situation. If the Treasury believes its own inflation forecasts, it would be very much cheaper for the government to fund the growing public sector borrowing requirement by means of index-linked gilts — particularly in advance of the election.

Any issues of conventional gilts are bound to carry a political risk premium, which can be avoided by issuing index-linked gilts. Yet the last long-dated index-linked issue was more than five years ago, on December 21, 1986.

For much of that period admittedly, the government was on balance, repaying debt rather than funding a deficit, so that relatively little stock of any kind needed to be issued. But it is surprising to note that the most recent issues have been conventional gilts with a redemption yield of around 9½ per cent when index-linked gilts are yielding around 4 per cent.

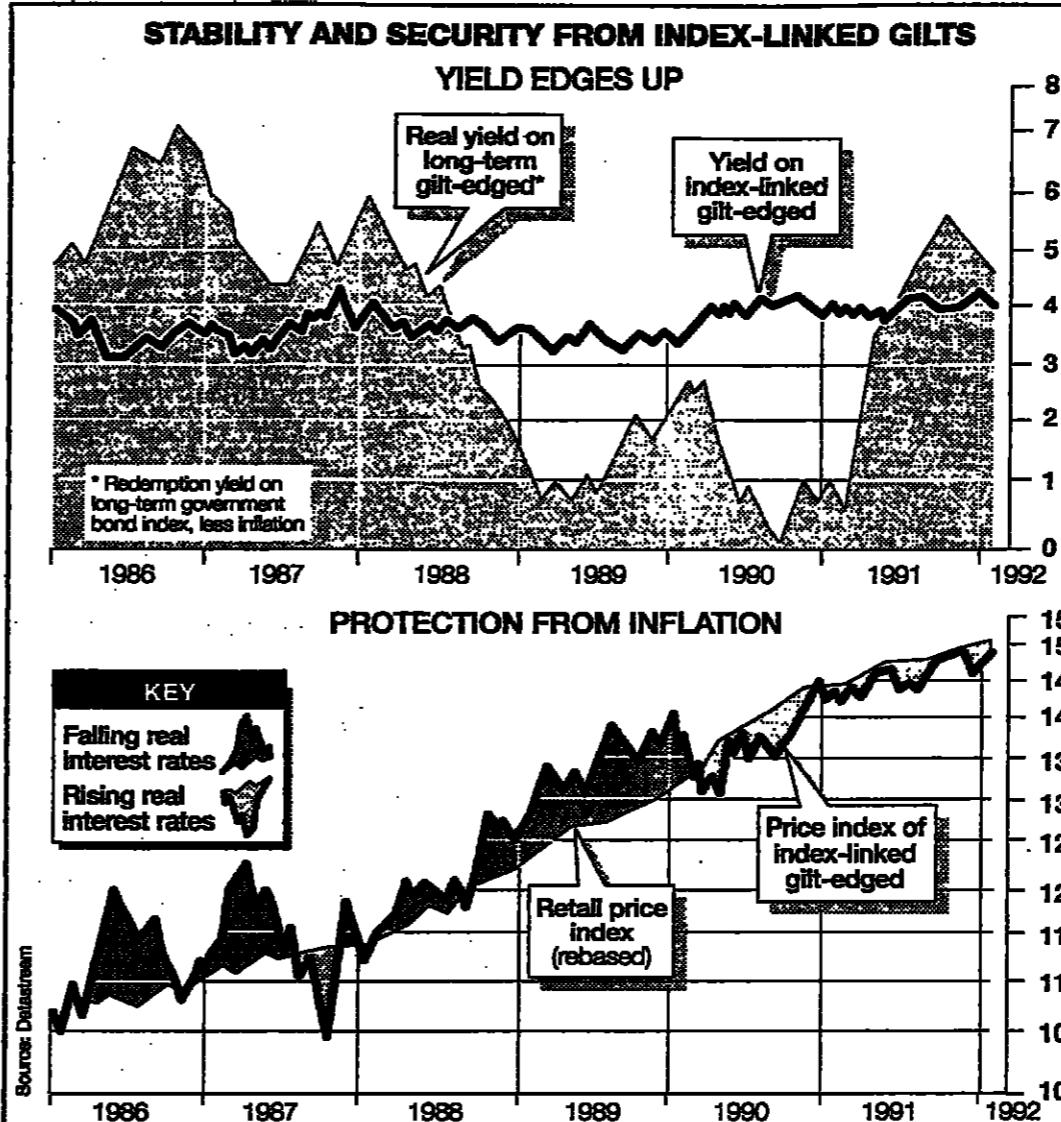
If inflation is set to fall to somewhere between zero and 4 per cent, one wonders why index-linked gilts are not being used as the main funding vehicle. Is it because the Treasury, in its heart of hearts, believes that Neil Kinnock will move into Number Ten and set Britain on course for South American style?

Index-linked gilts also play an important part in the government's attempt to persuade employers to inflation-proof their occupational pensions. Public sector pensioners and their surviving spouses can retire in the secure knowledge that their pensions will be increased each year in line with the retail prices index as an unfunded liability to be met by future taxpayers.

Prospects for inflation may look good in the immediate future but a man retiring now at 60, say, with a wife of 50 who might well survive to her 90s, is concerned with protection against inflation over the next 40 years or so.

Some private sector employers have been prepared to offer this kind of inflation protection. My mother, for example, who survived to 90-plus on an ICI widow's pension, benefited from such an enlightened policy.

In practical terms, however, it is unreasonable to expect employers to pick up the tab for this inflation-proofing unless they are offered a suitable investment vehicle. This is



where index-linked gilts can play a key role.

When an employee retires, a pension fund can buy an index-linked annuity from several household-name life assurance groups, including Standard Life, Prudential, Pearl and Norwich Union, which can match their liabilities by investment in index-linked gilts.

At the date of an employee's retirement, therefore, the employer knows exactly how much he has to pay in order to provide an inflation-proof pension for the worker and his or her surviving spouse and can fund accordingly, as many employers already do.

If the employer is taken over by someone who wants to follow in Robert Maxwell's footsteps or goes into liquidation, the employee's pension rights are secure and protected.

The employer does not have to be a large company to offer this type of security of income in old age. Many small, self-administered pension plans offer the same security. An entrepreneur who sets up a small self-administered pension plan, of which he is the sole member, wants protection if he sells his business prior to retirement. The pension rights will normally be secured by means of an index-linked annuity.

Most insurance companies that issue index-linked annuities are, however, obliged to set a cut-off point at the year 2024, the date when the longest-term index-linked gilt-edged stocks are redeemed.

The pensions industry desperately needs a big new issue of longer-dated stock that can be taken up by insurance companies offering index-linked annuities and those large self-administered pension funds that wish to "immunise" their liabilities to provide inflation-proof pensions.

To provide for a surviving spouse who might benefit from a pension for 40 years, we will require an issue with a redemption date of at least 2032.

Indeed, it would be better to make that 2040 in order to cater for the increasing number of centenarians who, thanks to improved medical care, are likely to require pensions in the 21st century and for those occasional spouses who are prepared to put up with earning partners that are more than ten years their senior.

If necessary, such an issue could be confined to tax-exempt approved pension funds and to insurers providing investment and annuity services. Sir Geoffrey Howe, who was Chancellor when index-linked gilts made their debut in 1981, originally favoured this formula. Restrictions were to counter vague official fears

about such a novelty, including the anxiety of Sir Gordon Richardson, then Governor of the Bank of England, that Opec governments would pile into any such issue, obliging the British government to offer them inflation protection for all time.

In the Eighties, when equities earned high rates of return, many investment managers tended to look down their noses at index-linked gilts. Now that dividend expectations are low the real rate of return guaranteed by index-linked gilts is attracting increased attention. They could be the best bet for a staple core portfolio for the Nineties.

Regardless of any merits of index-linked gilts as an investment for a growing pension fund portfolio, the most important immediate concern is to provide an adequate supply of new, long-dated issues needed for pension funds and their insurers to offer the necessary guarantees of income security in old age that has been the declared aim of government policy.

As more industries are privatised and as the burden of old age provision is privatised, private sector providers need to be given the tools to do the job.

The author is managing director of Employee Benefit Services Management, the actuary and consultant.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

French flavour for Merrill

GIVEN that European equities are one of the few lucrative areas of expansion still open to UK securities firms, and that proficient European analysts and traders are now commanding premium prices, Merrill Lynch Europe, the British offshoot of the American company, has pulled off something of a coup. From next month it will be fielding David Jones as its French equity analyst. Jones, who was previously joint director of research responsible for investment strategy at the securities subsidiary of Crédit Commercial de France, also once worked for Savory Mills, and S&G Warburg. For four of his five years at Warburg, Jones was the top-rated French analyst in the Eurolist survey. His brief at Merrill will be to combine coverage of French equities with a specialisation in the services sector across Europe. Merrill, which makes markets in 150 European stocks — double the number of a year ago — has also been recruiting for its trading desk. James Blackburn has joined from Salomon Brothers, as a senior trader in Dutch equities, and Michael Nielsen, former Commerzbank and Deutschebank, will be joining its Frankfurt office in April as its head, and first floor trader on the Frankfurt stock exchange.

Adversaries' honour
TSB, the bank that likes to say "yes", was probably unaware of the irony when it chose Gary Smith and Sir Michael Bishop as business



"It's just that I would prefer some other consumer to lead the recovery."

Animal evacuation

KELT Energy, the independent oil and gas company run by Hubert Ferrodo, the polo playing companion of Prince Charles, has had its fair share of financial woes in the past. However, they may seem like nothing compared with a drama due to unfold next week. On Tuesday, an enquiry will begin into plans for a £30 million sour-gas-fired power station in the Vale of Pickering, North Yorkshire. Kelt, which heads a consortium including BP, has hired Steurring House, home of Sir Michael Storey, chairman of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, to accommodate the hundreds of locals who are expected to voice their disapproval. Their vote aside, Kelt can expect sparks from Robert Gibb, millionaire owner of the Flamingoland Zoo. Gibb claims it would take days and cost up to £10 million to evacuate the elephants, giraffes and other inmates of his zoo in the event of an accident at the plant.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

From Mr Jeremy Lyons

Sir, I feel the powers at Lloyd's and the writers of the Rowland Report have both lost themselves in complexities.

They must revert to fundamentals — that is the strength behind Lloyd's is the Society of Members.

It would appear that the report does not address the four main problems affecting this society of Members of Lloyd's today.

Firstly, increasing costs — which must be headed by self-regulation. If an outside government body were to regulate Lloyd's, the high cost of regulation would then not be borne solely by the Members, while at the same time they would have more confidence in such regulation, where conflicts of interest would no longer apply.

Secondly, with the vast number of open year syndicates, a large number of members are unable to resign/leave Lloyd's, even though this is exactly what they may want. Some syndicates have implied that the attempt to close these syndicates is only half-hearted and that this situation will continue in order not to lose a large number of members, and therefore underwriting capacity, until corporate membership can be implemented.

Thirdly, even with the proposed stop loss provision, a profit ratio on average of say 15 per cent on deposit, in relation to a possible loss of 300 per cent of deposit (investment) is hardly an incentive for new members to invest.

And finally in order to encourage new members of Lloyd's — surely Lloyd's must be seen to be taking care of its existing members — something not apparently a recommendation of the working party report.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY N. M. LYONS,
Members' Writing Room,
Lloyd's of London,
1 Lime Street,
EC3.

Clear case for a regulatory body

From Major F. N. L. Chapman

Sir, Mr A Kininmonth may be unduly optimistic. (Business Letters, January 21). Should the suspicion once grow that there are untrustworthy agents at Lloyd's and that members' agents, accountants and reinsurers are prospering at members' expense, whereas the members themselves are getting small returns, if any, for the risks they run, then it is inevitable that membership will decline much further.

Although every member knows the risk he takes, the general assumption, if

Premiums share shrinking

From Mr Philip Dinkel

Sir, Lloyd's share of world non-life direct and reinsurance premiums has shrunk from some 45 per cent earlier this century to 1.5 per cent today. Of this 1.5 per cent the risky element of AOL insurance has increased. In the last ten years, direct syndicate expenses and agents fees have increased fivefold. Is this why some 9,500 names (or more than the total Lloyd's community of only a few years ago) are now in dispute with the corporation?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DINKELE,
4 Ravelin Road, SW15.

Rate disappoints

From Mr Simon Cooke

Sir, In the old days it used to be said that a typical bank manager would "fail" to tell his widowed customer that the £1,000 she had on current account ought really to be on a deposit account.

It appears that the wheel has now turned full circle. As clerk to my Parish Council I have made special efforts to put money on deposit in order that the council could earn as much interest as possible to help defray the parish's expenses. It was not until I recently enquired as to the rate of interest being paid that the awful truth dawned upon me. I am told that the parish's deposit account earns the princely rate of 1.5 per cent p.a. So much for the caring bank. I have little doubt that this goes for many trusts and other small funds throughout the country. Trustees and other guardians of such funds would be well advised to examine alternatives to their local bank.

Yours truly,
SIMON H. COOKE,
10 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2

Shipyard deals put life into the Clyde

For more than three years the rusting "Tuxedo Princess", formerly the Stranraer-Larne ferry Caledonian Princess, has lain at anchor alongside Glasgow's Broomielaw. Used as a nightclub and restaurant until the venture recently folded, it is an ironic sight for Glaswegians who remember when the Clyde built some of the world's greatest liners and warships.

The upper Clyde basin, with its empty wharves and motionless cranes, remains a stark reminder of the Clyde's former maritime pre-eminence, but recently the river has witnessed a modest resurgence in shipbuilding, marked yesterday by the announcement that the Yarrow naval yard has won a vital order for three Type 23 frigates.

In December, the Norwegian-owned Kvaerner Govan yard on the south bank won a £200 million order for four 37,500-ton bulk chemical carriers, securing 1,700 jobs. The yard was saved from closure by the Norwegians in 1988.

Shipyard workers on the Clyde, or what was left of them, could be forgiven for their lack of morale over 20 years as yards closed and orders went to the Far East and continental Europe. Kvaerner Govan, however, saw off rivals for the order. Workers have been persuaded to drop the restrictive practices that made the yards uncompetitive. Absenteeism has become a forgotten habit.

In the Sixties, demarcation disputes were rife. European countries, and Japan and Korea, were building ships faster and more cheaply. In 1968, with Clyde yards collapsing, Upper Clyde Shipbuilders was formed. Despite £20 million from the Labour government the demarcation disputes continued. In 1970, the new Conservative government refused any more aid and the famous "work-in" followed, eventually leading to Govan Shipbuilders, an amalgam of three yards.

Yet by 1988 the Govan was tottering on the brink of collapse under British Shipbuilders, which had swallowed £2 billion of state aid since nationalisation and had seen the national workforce tumble from 32,000 to 6,000. Since the Norwegian takeover the workforce has remained steady.

There was further proof of the resurgence of the Clyde on Wednesday when Ferguson Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow launched the Star Pegasus, a £10 million supply vessel, commissioned by Star Offshore Services.

Yarrow, which has concentrated on military vessels since the late Sixties is now poised to enter the civilian market with a bid to build a 120-car ferry for Caledonian MacBrayne. Yarrow said the new order would secure its future. "We are expecting an upturn in the merchant fleet which means that with Kvaerner Govan secure and ourselves reasonably secure we have the capacity to take up anything that comes along," Mr Fyfe said.

KERRY GILL

£400m order, page 20

THE TIMES CROSSWORD RANGE

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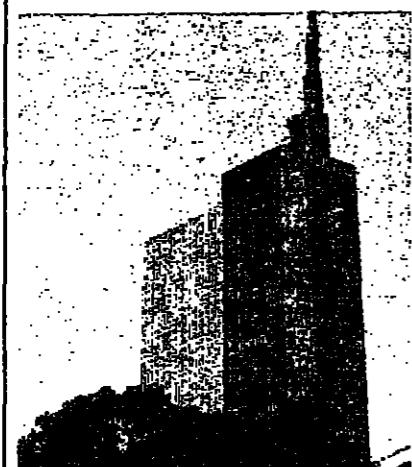
NAME ADDRESS

It is in line

Dear Shareholder,
The Group's balance sheet is strong with shareholders' equity of £1.3 billion and cash balances of over £280 million, 87 per cent. of which is banked in Europe or the United States. Net borrowings remain at the level reported in the Interim Statement with gearing at 70 per cent.

Lonrho's current capital investment programme is winding down and borrowings will reduce during the year with a corresponding reduction in gearing. In addition, a selection of companies from the group of 300 will be carefully sold during what the Board sees as a year of good housekeeping.

By having the widest spread of assets in many countries, Lonrho hoped to avoid exposure to a recession in any particular economy or industry. The Gulf war brought world-wide economic consequences, bringing a strong decline to tourism, consumption, manufacturing, industry and oil. For example, the fall in precious metal prices accounts for nearly half of the reduction in Lonrho's profits in the second six months compared to last year and the rare industrial metal rhodium sold in 1990 at £2000 per ounce but is now £1000 per ounce. Your Company has been less profitable during the financial year, with a weak second half.



The new Lonrho House in Nairobi, Kenya.

Despite it all, the year end result was £207 million profit before tax against £273 million last year, and Lonrho remains soundly based to move back to its normal pattern of turnover and profit.

The production of platinum group metals and gold continues to be a major source of revenue for Lonrho, and 1991 saw another substantial uplift in production from the planned expansion at Western Platinum and Ashanti.

In Western Platinum, shareholders have, I believe, one of the world's great mines with a life of at least one hundred years, together with low-cost modern production methods. The sudden fall in platinum and rhodium prices is caused by world recession combined with destocking. The mining industry has weathered the effects of cyclical pricing time and time again.

At Ashanti in Ghana production is steadily increasing according to the programme which envisages a million ounces per annum in three years. Lonrho is in partnership with the Republic of Ghana in developing the Ashanti Mine and has enjoyed an exceptional degree of constructive support from the Government.

Across Africa, Lonrho maintains and improves its position as the largest food producer. The Company also raises beef cattle and ranches a total herd of



The new Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana.

120,000 head. Unusually, the estates in Mozambique have to contend with unsettled local circumstances, and the Board offers its warm appreciation to those who continue to operate and produce with the knowledge of real physical risk. The Company employs over 10,000 field workers in Mozambique, and a uniformed and armed defence unit of 1,400 men. Peace is imminent in Mozambique and we will all be thankful to stand down the men who enabled the Company to continue its farming business and let them return to their normal work.

Across the world the Gulf war cut back both business and holiday travel and our hotels suffered a severe drop in occupancy during the year under review. In recent months the recovery has been gradual. Overall, our hotels are in excellent physical condition, and with small exceptions freehold and wholly-owned. Outstanding among them is the Acapulco Princess, which has no world competitor in size and quality. The new motorway from Mexico City is rapidly being completed and will give this remarkable hotel immeasurably better access from the capital.

In central London, £60 million has been invested in adding a modern complex of conference halls and two hundred new rooms to the Metropole Hotel. A third phase has received planning permission for an extension which would make the Metropole London's largest hotel in the under-supplied middle market, but the Board is not satisfied that this is the best time to go ahead.

The sale of Lonrho's fifty per cent. share in the German freight company Kühne & Nagel was announced on 23 January, 1992. Mr. Klaus Kühne has been a wonderful partner since Lonrho originally invested



Rock boring equipment - Kree platinum mine.

Lonrho's balance sheet is strong

Cash balances exceed £280 million

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

The following text is taken from the Review of Operations for the year ended 30 September, 1991:

MINING & REFINING

The Group's three platinum mines have negotiated a sale rather than see a reduced return for some years. The sale price shows a profit of DM250 million over cost and the Deutsche Mark has continuously strengthened in the last ten years.

This sale does not lessen Lonrho's interest in Germany where the Group's other investments are doing well. For instance, shareholders may like to know that assets in Germany include four and a half thousand modern apartments, a significant share in one of Germany's most extensive supermarket chains and a 50/50 partnership company, Krupp Lonrho, with strong commercial links with Eastern Europe. Krupp Lonrho has Europe's biggest fleet of bulk carriers at 3.6 million DWT, all of which are profitably engaged.

A further sale from German assets took place after the end of the financial year. A development site in Frankfurt was sold at a substantial profit to a Flaminus construction group for DM111 million.

In Russia Lonrho now employs five hundred people. Our record in starting and managing major projects is the best calling card, and under the leadership of Jonathan Platt-Mills, who has joined the Main Board, we expect to operate successfully in Russia, the Republics of the ex USSR and the newly independent states of Eastern Europe.

The financial year included sales of over a hundred and fifty thousand cars, trucks, tractors, lorries and buses, making Lonrho in aggregate one of the world's biggest motor traders. Across the market, there was far less demand with corresponding price cuts. Typically, Jack Barclay, the leading distributor of Rolls-Royce and Bentley in the United Kingdom had sales reduced by 26 per cent.



Tomato paste factory, Chilambene Estates, Mozambique.

The Group publishes twenty nine newspapers, led by the internationally known *Observer*, and prints 90 per cent. of Britain's postage stamps and the stamps of 120 other countries. The move by Harrison's into currency printing is turning out well.

Virtually all the Group's businesses in the United Kingdom have been troubled by the recession. Textiles and construction were among the few exceptions.

It is extremely unusual for your Board to offer you disappointing results and in addition shareholders will have seen with regret that our Chairman, Sir Edward du Cann, resigned during the year in circumstances that were unconnected with Lonrho.

In the last thirty years, Lonrho has had three excellent Chairmen, Alan Ball, Lord Duncan-Sandys and Sir Edward du Cann, all of whom had long been Directors of the Company. In the same spirit and with the unanimous support of the Board and the Company, our outstanding colleague René Lecécio has agreed to take the Chair, after almost thirty years with the Company and fifteen years as a Director. René Lecécio has been responsible for the planning and development of Lonrho Sugar Corporation which employs 21,000 people and last year produced half a million tonnes of sugar and 23 million profit.

There are now nineteen Associate Directors appointed from the management team which even in this difficult year has produced over £200 million in profits.

Now to the dividend. The Company will pay a final dividend of 5 pence, making 13 pence net for the financial year. Exceptionally, Lonrho will withhold the first interim dividend of 3 pence this year.

We want to see how profits are going before returning to our traditional policy of maximum distribution which has served shareholders so well.

Your Company has a proud thirty-one year record of dividends. For example, a 1 per cent. holder of Lonrho shares in 1961 received a dividend of £1,000. A 1 per cent. holder in 1990 received a million pounds net. Your Board will always put the interests and protection of the shareholders first.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Rowland

Total gold production from Ashanti will increase to one million ounces a year by 1995/96.

Gold production in Zimbabwe increased by over 4,000 ounces to exceed 164,000 ounces.

Coal sales continued to increase reaching a new record of 5.3 million tonnes.

AGRICULTURE

Lonrho is the largest commercial food producer in Africa with sugar production being the major source of profits. In spite of reduced production in Swaziland and Mauritius due to

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Portfolio

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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
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2	West John D.	Plastics	
3	Wheaton Bowes	Building, Rds	
4	Harris (Philips)	Industrial	
5	Whiteman	Industrial	
6	Witoldiak	Textiles	
7	Witoldiak TV	Leisure	
8	Witoldiak Leisure	Leisure	
9	WITR	Industrial	
10	WIT CP	Leisure	
11	Witman	Leisure	
12	Witold (W)	Industrial	
13	Witman	Newspaper, Pub	
14	Globe Min	Resources	
15	Witco	Electrical	
16	Witco	Electrical	
17	Witton St	Industrial	
18	Witoldiak	Textiles	
19	Witoldiak Paper, Print	Leisure	
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International	56.58	84.99	+ 0.1	1.51							
Global Cb Soc	51.12	84.51	+ 1.0	1.06							
Global Growth	51.62	87.23	+ 0.6	2.72							
Wickes Fund	65.00	104.24	+ 0.6	6.25							
Gift Fund Inc	52.47	84.14	+ 0.6	1.14							
Gift Fund Inc	122.00	225.00	+ 0.6	6.25							
Gift Fund Inc	125.00	125.00	+ 0.0	0.17							
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Europ Inv Cb	31.02	32.84	+ 0.4	4.62							
Europ Inv Cb	105.50	208.60	+ 0.6	5.56							
American Inv	54.21	50.00	+ 0.6	3.61							
Europ Inv Cb	78.23	80.69	+ 0.6	2.05							
F Fund Energy	52.47	54.14	+ 0.6	1.14							
Gift Fund Inc	30.60	30.00	+ 0.6	0.17							
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071 345 1414			ICONS INVESTMENT	308.10	325.70	+ 1.0	5.66				
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High Yield	105.50	208.60	+ 0.6	5.56							
American Inv	54.21	50.00	+ 0.6	3.61							
Wm Amt Val	31.24	33.27	+ 1.6	1.50							
Gift Fund Inc	30.60	30.00	+ 0.6	0.17							
Gift Fund Inc	30.60	30.00	+ 0.6	0.26							
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1992 Ssn Sp Cb	52.22	53.50	+ 1.1	2.79							
International	56.72	73.19	+ 0.1	7.36							
Global Inv	68.85	73.02	+ 0.3	0.81							
UK Growth	79.27	84.77	+ 0.5	6.25							
UK Income	56.78	66.12	+ 0.5	1.34							
Gift Fund Inc	197.00	200.00	+ 0.3	0.50							
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MANAGERS LTD			ICONS INVESTMENT	308.10	325.70	+ 1.0	5.66				
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071 047 5960			ICONS INVESTMENT	308.10	325.70	+ 1.0	5.66				
Charter Inv Cb	32.00	32.00	+ 0.0	0.00							
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071 046 2222			ICONS INVESTMENT	308.10	325.70	+ 1.0	5.66				
Charter Inv Cb	32.00	32.00	+ 0.0	0.00							
Charter Inv Cb	57.34	61.39	+ 0.7	3.29							
Charter Inv Cb	57.34	61.39	+ 0.7	3.29							
Charter Inv Cb	57.34	61.39	+ 0.7	3.29							
CHARTERS OFFICIAL UNIT TRUST			ICONS INVESTMENT	308.10	325.70	+ 1.0	5.66		</td		

Forced sales delay property revival

By RODNEY HOBSON

THE only parts of the small business property market to hold up have been those underpinned by government finance, according to an annual report by Cavendish Tate, surveyors and business valuers. Otherwise 1991 'was a year of stagnation'. Government bankers and business agents were unable to talk the market into a recovery.

Repossessions and bankruptcies have flooded the market with businesses for sale, either as going concerns or bricks and mortar. The best performer, Cavendish Tate says, has been the private health care industry: nursing homes, residential care homes, homes for the mentally disordered and children's day nurseries. Small shops have been hit hard and are likely to come under still more pressure as big companies extend opening hours at weekends.

The leisure industry is being starved of finance by banks and of bookings by cost-conscious customers. Cavendish Tate says: "Many large and small leisure companies are reaching a point of no return. The hotel industry has suffered from a glut of properties for sale, reducing values to absurdly low levels." The licensed trade "has gone through a period of unprecedented turmoil". Cavendish Tate reckons that by the end of the year there might be 10 to 15 per cent fewer pubs in the UK.

Now that is the only sector that has not yet bottomed out in the recession, the report says.

Cavendish Tate says financial institutions "are reappraising not only the strength of their commercial book but also the reasons for the substantial write-offs". They are likely to assess risks and analyse loan proposals more carefully.

Confidence is slowly returning,

but no recovery is likely until the backlog of properties offered for sale under distressed circumstances is cleared.

JOHN MANNING

Pull up to the battery point

Eerily quiet electric cars are due soon in Britain, reports Vaughan Freeman

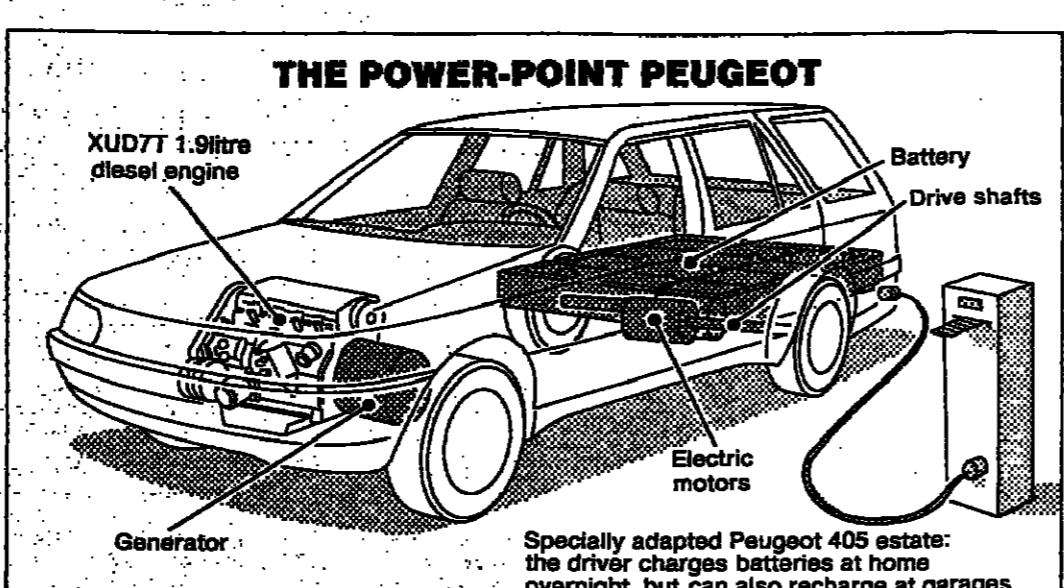
The ticking clock may be an annoyance in a whispering Rolls-Royce, but in the battery cars about to arrive in Britain such a noise would be a crashing intrusion. Cruising in absolute silence, these vehicles will be a smog-plagued pedestrian's dream, emitting no exhaust at all.

These eerily silent machines are likely to become a common sight as they pull in to garage forecourts. The driver will unclip a flex cord from the boot and plug in to an industrial-size charger for a battery top-up.

Electric versions of the Peugeot 106 and Citroën AX - using present body shapes, will be here by 1995, the French manufacturers announced this week. The PSA Peugeot-Citroën group has also developed a "hybrid" Peugeot 405 estate. This uses two electric motors for exhaust-free running plus a small diesel engine which recharges batteries and helps boost motorway cruising speeds.

An experiment in on-top roadside refuelling for such vehicles starts next year when PSA begins a pilot project in conjunction with the French city of La Rochelle and Électricité de France, the French power generator.

Up to 300 La Rochelle motorists will be equipped with electric-powered versions of the Peugeot



Specially adapted Peugeot 405 estate: the driver charges batteries at home overnight, but can also recharge at garages

106 or the Citroën AX. Recharging posts will be dotted around the city so the battery cars will run without the fear that plagues the idea of battery-powered vehicles: grinding to a halt on a flat battery without the quick fix of a can of petrol.

New technology means that such cars can use nickel-cadmium batteries, which last ten years, compared with the three years of lead-acid batteries used in milk floats.

At selected points, the La Rochelle cars will be able to charge up in ten minutes with enough battery power to travel about 12.4 miles, allowing drivers to get home after a full overnight charge. More efficient chargers will cut the time

to five minutes. The batteries, however, are expected to add more than £2,000 to the vehicle price.

Running costs should be low. A full overnight charge will give 125 miles of motoring, which will add an estimated £1.50 to the electricity bill. Petrol for a similar distance would cost £6.

The race to develop the first effective battery car is caused as much by economic realities as environmental idealism. Car emissions account for 16 per cent of acid rain and 10 per cent of carbon dioxide that contributes to the greenhouse effect.

Jacques Calvet, the PSA chairman, says: "We are determined to preserve our planet's fragile eco-

system. At stake is nothing less than our right to move about freely without polluting. To win, we must identify, analyse, quantify and reduce or eliminate all types of pollution caused by the planet's rapidly growing road traffic."

If this is not done, manufacturers face bankruptcy. California, America's biggest car market, is preparing legislation requiring that by 2003, 2 per cent of all new cars sold there must emit no exhaust. The incentive for manufacturers to develop such vehicles is that if they do not meet the zero emission target, they will not be permitted to sell any vehicles in the state. Since 1980, California has set the pace on lead-

SMOG ALERT

Some of Europe's biggest cities suffer record traffic-fume pollution. In Britain, the environment department is considering issuing smog warnings.

Not only Britain is affected. Florence has been closed to private cars by day this month.

The daily ban, from 9.30am to 5pm, is the most drastic of anti-pollution measures by several Italian cities, including a system of allowing only cars with odd-numbered plates to enter one day and those with even numbers the next. One Roman found a way around this: he drove with an odd-numbered plate on the front of his car and an even-numbered one on the back.

free fuel and catalytic converters, and the rest of America and Europe is following. If you think all this is too futuristic, consider that PSA is already working on a pollution-free propulsion system for cars based on hydrogen, more usually used in rockets.

In its policy document, "A Plan for the Environment", PSA says: "In the long run, adapting hydrogen, a high-energy fuel that powers rocket engines, would totally eliminate carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrocarbon and particle emissions."

The French concede that hydrogen power is a long way off, but the idea of refuelling from the national grid should encourage environment-friendly motorists.

ROADWISE

Nissan presents its new face

NISSAN has announced its re-launch into the British market by offering 24-hour emergency cover on its 1992 models. Nissan Assist, run with the RAC, provides for every emergency, including lost keys and breakdown recovery.

The service is available from the date of purchase for a year and thereafter at preferential rates. As Nissan steadily recovers from its "lost year" of legal wrangling with Nissan UK, its former independent distributor, the package is intended as a competitive offer to attract potential buyers back to the

The package has been devised to slot into the £19,250 and 1,995cc engine tax threshold to attract business people. The 120 bhp 25 TXE Executive is £16,995 and the 140bhp TXI £19,250.

Style lesson

TOM MATANO, Mazda's chief designer in the US, says he takes new designers to lingerie shows to study design because he believes cars must also have a good rear end. Interviewed by America's Automotive News, Mr Matano



says American men find the "curve of hip, thigh and leg" the most sexy. Cars, like women, need a good rear three-quarter view, he says. If he gave designers a pile of documents, they would forget the lesson, but a lingerie show seems to do the trick.

Loved by the Volk

VOLKSWAGEN was Europe's top car maker last year. Its West European sales rose by 0.4 per cent to a record 13.53 million. The increase was because of the rapid pace of unification of West and East Germany, which showed growth of 28 per cent in sales.

Second biggest manufacturer was Fiat followed by General Motors (including Vauxhall), Peugeot-Citroën, Ford, Renault and Mercedes-Benz.

Winter warmer

SEE and be seen is the message during the darkest weeks of the winter. Lights and wipers are the most important equipment to be checked and drivers should ensure that all lights work, washer bottles are full (with a little detergent in

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Saab 9000 2.0iS: price, £21,595; engine, four-cylinder, 16-valve, 2-litre; producing 130bhp through five-speed manual gearbox. Anti-lock brakes standard. Performance, 0 to 60mph in 10.5 seconds; top speed 118mph; fuel consumption 24.4mpg in town driving (government figure)

The annoying sound of Saab

SAAB'S new 9000 CS range seems to suffer from a rumble similar to that of old record turntables, Kevin Evans writes.

From the moment the four-cylinder engine starts, a low vibration trembles up the feet through the legs and into the torso.

The sensation could be pleasant, except that there is no way to turn it off. I suspect that the range will take smoother six-cylinder engines if the engineers are to get rid of the rumble.

Now that Saab is a General Motors company, there seems

little doubt that the executive cars, costing between £18,750 and £30,000, will soon share the V6 engines due from Ellesmere Port, Merseyside.

The CS 1.7 tested scored well on interior cabin refinement; its leather passenger seats are surrounded by "smile look" fabrics and the walnut-surround dashboard is clear. A cavernous boot will swallow the biggest holiday luggage load.

The exterior, completely redesigned for better aerodynamics

and safety, is pure Saab. The car is also wonderfully reassuring. Saabs are renowned for safety and there is a tremendous feeling of solidity about the CS and its firm-closing chunky doors.

Ride and handling are also impressive. Fat tyres on 15in wheels and updated suspension prevent the sort of body roll that afflicts some executive cars. But those tyres and the stern ride contribute to the irritating noise and vibration.

On a motorway, the Saab CS is in its element, carrying driver and passengers in great comfort — apart from that rumble.

Trade: 071-481 4422
Private: 071-481 4000

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828

SAAB AUTHORISED DEALERS

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01923 826280

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Premier Saab

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Challengers prepare to do battle off San Diego for tilt at America's Cup

New Zealand hold design edge

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
IN SAN DIEGO

NEW Zealand and Italy begin the America's Cup challenge trials off San Diego tomorrow as clear favourites to contest the right to take on the American holders for the sporting world's oldest trophy. Ahead lie three months of gruelling trials against six lesser challenges, from Japan, France, Spain, Sweden and two from Australia, designed to hone the eventual Louis Vuitton champions to a level of performance that will overwhelm the best American efforts.

With the exception of the 1988 Cup debacle, when Dennis Conner used a catamaran to thrash the legitimate big-boat challenge from New Zealand, the Louis Vuitton Cup holder has gone on to secure the prime prize ever since 1983, when John Bertrand and Australia II wrested the trophy from Conner. The odds are stacked against the defenders once



Dickson: impressed

more. The eight challenging syndicates have invested as much as \$200 million towards the cause. By comparison, the two American syndicates, led by Conner and Bill Koch, have about \$53 million — and \$43 million of that is in the hands of Koch, an oil baron and amateur yachtsman indulging himself in a new-found sport.

The biggest spenders on

the challenge side are the Italians, led by the Venice-based industrialist, Raul Gardini. Buoyed by his many world championship successes in the 1980s, he has put together an impressive five-boat programme led by the American yachtsman, Paul Cayard.

Their Il Moro di Venezia challenge, sponsored by the chemical giant, Montedison, which Gardini controlled until last year, lacks for nothing. Their official budget stands at \$43 million — the same as Koch's — but a count of the men and equipment employed in the Italian camp suggests the final figure will be nearer \$60 million.

The New Zealanders have less than half at their disposal, but whatever they lack in dollars is more than made up by a highly motivated and experienced crew, led by the American Olympic medal winner, Rod Davis. They are also the firm favourites among Americans, many of whom remain em-

barrassed by Conner's spoiling tactics four years ago. The New Zealanders also have one important ace up their sleeve — a seemingly superior design.

Chris Dickson, who skippered New Zealand's 12-metre challenge to within an ace of success off Fremantle in 1987 and who now leads Japan's Nippon challenge, is impressed. Talking after a pre-trial tuning skirmish last week, the match race world champion said: "The top boats from the top team will

PROGRAMME

Challengers

First round robin: Jan 25 to Feb 5
Second round robin: Feb 13 to 25
Third round robin: March 8 to 19
(18-boat round robin series): March 29 to April 9.

Finals: April 20 to 29.

Defenders

First round robin: Jan 14 to 26
Second round robin: Feb 8 to 18
Third round robin: March 8 to 17
Finals: April 20 to 29 (or April 26 to April 17 to 30).

Americans Cup

May 9 to 19: best of seven-race series.

be pretty close. The New Zealand boat is the one exception. It is in a totally different corner of the design field. It will be faster sometimes, but it will be slower other times, but it must be everyone's top pick. They are solid, with experience, a lot of good people, and a top design team."

Dickson remains cautious about his own prospects.

"Nippon Challenge is new to the event, doesn't have the experience at this level of yacht racing," he said. "It doesn't surprise me that we are not rated in the few. This America's Cup is going to be about boat speed and match racing. The starts are going to be very important. There are going to be collisions in pre-starts when masts come down."

The French, led by Marc Pajot, look most likely to press the Japanese for a place in the semi-finals and either of the two Australian challenges could prove dark horses.

Defender trials, page 35

GUIDE TO THE CHALLENGERS

Sweden
Syndicate: Swedish America's Cup Challenge
Skipper: Gunnar Krantz. Helmsman: Olof Johansson. Tactician: Gunnar Krantz. Syndicate head: Tomas Wallin.
Yacht club: Stenungsbaden YC.
Designer: Peter Norlin. Consultant: Marilyn Smith and David Holm.
No. of boats built: 1. Launch date: January 1992.
Name: Sweden.
Budget: \$10 million.

The Swedes are one of the outsiders after fighting a succession of wins and losses from the yacht's builders, designers and mast manufacturer. Their boat is a near copy of Conner's defending yacht, Stars & Stripes, but the crew has had little practice. Not expected to get past the semi-final cut.

Spain
Syndicate: Desafio Espana Copa America.
Skippers: Pedro Campos and Calvo Solet. Tactician: Antonio Gorostegui. Syndicate head: Pedro Campos.
Yacht club: Montre Real Club de Yates de Bayona.
Designers: Diego Colon de Carvajal, Inigo Echenique, Diego Colon, Joaquin Gonzalez, Devesa, Manolo Ruiz Elvira and Ronaldo Diaz.
No. of boats built: 2. First launch date: November 1990. Latest

launch date: November 1991.
Name of latest yacht: Espana '92. Quinto Centenario.
Budget: \$24 million.

This is the first Spanish challenge for the Cup, and it nearly came off

when the real broke off

their first boat, causing it to capsize. The crew has great depth of experience in dinghy and offshore racing and has been practising with two boats of San Diego since December. Unlike to reach the semi-finals.

France
Syndicate: Ville de Paris.
Skipper: Marc Pajot. Tactician: Marc Bouet. Syndicate head: Yvon Jacob.
Yacht club: Yacht Club de France- Seine.
Designers: Philippe Briand, Gilles Cizor and Dassault Aviation.
No. of boats built: 3. First launch date: January 1990. Latest launch date: January 1992.
Name of latest yacht: Ville de Paris.
Budget: \$30 million.

The French were the first to launch their Cup contender, but the skipper, Marc Pajot, lost this initial impetus in a feuding struggle to retain control of this challenge. This is Pajot's second tilt at the Cup, and after selling his first boat to the Americans, the group, which is based in Paris, theloyd of Paris, has built two more. Favourites to reach the semi-finals.

Italy
Syndicate: Il Moro di Venezia.
Skipper: Paul Cayard (US). Tactician: Tommaso Chieff. Syndicate head: Raul Gardini.
Yacht club: Compagnia della Vela, Venice.
Designer: German Frers (Arg.).
No. of boats built: 5. First launch date: March 1990. Latest launch date: December 1991.
Name of latest yacht: Il Moro di Venezia.
Budget: \$43 million.

The Italians started first and third in the challenge trials last year and continue tremendous strength in design and with the biggest budget.

Backed by the Italian industrialist, Raul Gardini, they have built five boats, and, together with the New Zealanders, are favourites to reach the semi-finals of the Louis Vuitton challenge trials.

Japan
Syndicate: Nippon Challenge.
Skipper: Chris Dickson (NZ). Tactician: John Cutler (NZ). Syndicate head: Michael Fay.
Yacht club: Mercury Bay Boating Club.
Designers: Bruce Fan and Russell Bowler.
No. of boats built: 3. First launch date: April 1990. Latest launch date: December 1991.
Name of latest yacht: New Zealand.
Budget: \$25 million.

Mr Michael Fay may have lost his legal battle against Conner's catamaran following the farcical Cup series in 1988, but he is back this time. He has a radical boat that has proved very fast in early trials. It has the most experienced crew and financial backing to see it through the draw-out trials.

Australia
Syndicate: Challenge Australia.
Skipper: Gordon Lucas. Helmsman: Phil Thompson. Tactician: David Clarke. Syndicate head: Syd Fischer.

This is the first Japanese challenge for the Cup and the group has the resources to overcome any weaknesses that could be exposed

during the early rounds. It also has, in Chris Dickson, one of the best designers in the world, and the depth of talent and experience of the Italians and New Zealanders. Fourth at the world championships, they could prove a dark horse.

New Zealand
Syndicate: New Zealand '92 Challenge.
Skipper: Rod Davis (US). Tactician: David Barnes. Syndicate head: Michael Fay.
Yacht club: Mercury Bay Boating Club.
Designers: Bruce Fan and Russell Bowler.
No. of boats built: 1. First launch date: December 1991. Latest launch date: December 1991.
Name of latest yacht: New Zealand.
Budget: \$6 million.

This is Syd Fischer's third campaign for the Cup. His last two were strapped for cash and this may prove the limiting factor again. The designer, Peter van Oossanen, is the Dutch scientist credited with turning Ben Lexcen's wing idea into winning reality in 1983. He has developed his own ideas for testing in Sydney Harbour before finalising his latest design. Ranked as outsiders.

Australia
Syndicate: Spirit of Australia.
Skipper: Peter Gilmore. Tactician: Iain Murray and Grant Simmer. Syndicate head: Iain Murray.
Yacht club: Darling Harbour YC.
Designers: Iain Murray.
No. of boats built: 1. Launch date: December 1991.
Name of yacht: Spirit of Australia.
Budget: \$6 million.

Iain Murray's peoples' challenge has attracted more than 15,000 supporters from across Australia, but little in the way of corporate dollars. The former RAF pilot, who has a three-man crew, has recently given their four-man machine one of the fastest starts in history.

George Farrell and Paul Field are also soldiers, with a barely suppressed mood of abandon you find in

Yacht club: Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.
Designer: Dr Peter van Oossanen.
No. of boats built: 1. **Launch date:** September 1991.
Name of yacht: Challenge Australia.

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Crossillion holds best credentials of Wragg's team

WORD from Newmarket suggests that Geoffrey Wragg is hopeful of landing a double at Southwell today with Dorset Duke and Crossillion, who will both be ridden by Michael Hills.

While I can give Crossillion a fine chance of winning the Crab Handicap, even with 9st 1lb to carry, I doubt whether Dorset Duke will be able to give so much weight away to Dougal's Image in the Shark Handicap.

Supporting either of Wragg's fancied runners is to bank on them reproducing their good form on Lingfield's Equitrack surface on Southwell's Fibresand, which is a totally different surface. Results from the two all-weather courses have shown that not all horses are adaptable.

If Crossillion can come to terms with the change in surface, he will be hard to beat.

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

He excelled at Lingfield in December when accounting for Rappoport and Prince Roxanne, who both have fine records on track.

Should Crossillion not find Fibresand to his liking he will be vulnerable to the late challenge of the Reg Akhurst-trained Lara's Baby, twice a winner on the Nottinghamshire track.

In contrast to Crossillion, Dorset Duke has at least raced on Fibresand even though its recent wins have been gained at Lingfield. In December he was runner-up to Super Benz, beaten four lengths.

But I feel he will need to do better than that if he is to beat the Jeremy Glover-trained

Dougal's Image, who has already won twice on the track this year and is still by no means harshly handicapped.

Silver Samurai, who showed improved form when winning by 12 lengths a fortnight ago, is taken to keep up the good work by landing the Hallbut Claiming Stakes over the same course and distance.

David Chapman, the successful trainer from Stillington in Yorkshire, has posed problems for backers by defeating both Tigani and Welly Lad for the Oyster Claiming Stakes.

At his best Tigani, who joined the stable in a £12,000 transaction last autumn, would have no trouble winning this. He was runner-up to Super Benz, beaten four lengths.

On YVA, from Robert Williams's Newmarket yard, is mapped to win the Lobsier Handicap after winning well over the same course and distance a week ago. The 7lb penalty for that success is partly offset by the 5lb allowance of the accomplished apprentice Carl Hodgeson.

On the altered terms Costack Noir, the bottom weight, looks the probable danger having finished fourth on that occasion.

Blinded first time
SOUTHWELL: 1.55 Don't Move.

THE meetings at Wincanton and Uttoxeter scheduled for today were abandoned yesterday because of frost, leaving Southwell's all-weather fixture as the sole survivor.

Two of tomorrow's cards are also threatened. Cheltenham will inspect at 11.30am today but Edward Gillespie, the course's general manager, described prospects as "bleak", adding: "The fore-

cast would have to be wrong for there to be any chance of racing."

Racing at Doncaster will be decided by a 10am inspection today but the course was still frozen yesterday.

Of the two remaining meetings, Ayr report no problems with a good going forecast, while Lingfield's all-weather Flat fixture is also expected to go ahead as planned.

Blinded first time

SOUTHWELL: 1.55 Don't Move.

Newton Abbot

Going: good to soft

1.30 (2m 120yd holes) 1. Silver Wings (2.5) 1.55 Silver Samur

2.25 Dougal's Image 2.25 Welly Lad

3.25 Crossillion 3.55 ON Y VA (nap)

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- RACING 33
- CRICKET 34

THE TIMES SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1992

Central defender ruled out for six weeks

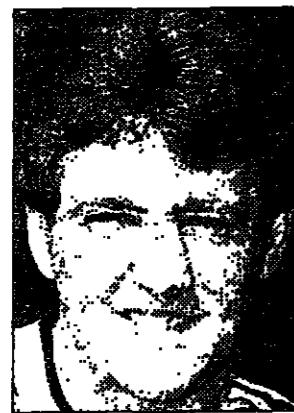
Injury to Bruce deals blow to United's hopes

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AS LEEDS United lost Lee Chapman for some six weeks, so Manchester United now expect to be without Steve Bruce for the same amount of time. It would appear that the fortunes of the two clubs at the top of the first division have thus been neatly balanced.

Bruce revealed on Wednesday night that for a couple of months he has been carrying the injury to which he eventually succumbed.

He imagined that he could play his way through the pain barrier and postpone his appointment with a surgeon un-



Bruce: playing in pain

Freeze takes early toll on weekend fixtures

FOOTBALL and rugby union face a mounting backlog of fixtures as several of tomorrow's FA Cup fourth-round ties and the majority of the Pilkington Cup programme are in danger of being frozen off (Louise Taylor writes).

Although no FA Cup matches have been postponed, Bristol Rovers said yesterday that with the temperature on their pitch at Twerton Park, Bath, as low as 8°F, there was "very little chance of the tie with Liverpool going ahead". So little that the match has been pro-

visionally rearranged for either February 4 or 5.

The chill is even more pronounced in Scotland, where 12 third-round Scottish Cup ties are regarded as unlikely starters.

In rugby union, the outstanding Pilkington Cup fourth-round tie between Northampton and Bath at Franklin's Gardens has already been postponed, with more expected to follow.

Rugby league is similarly affected and tomorrow's Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie between Salford and Wigan was an early casualty.

in pain on several occasions. bravely he completed the game. Claiming he has been a rapid healer in the past, Bruce intends to return sooner than scheduled, but Alex Ferguson is prepared to lose his vice-captain for ten fixtures.

That will probably include both legs of the Rumbelows Cup semi-final against either Middlesbrough or Peterborough. Not that United's manager is short of replacements. Unlike Howard Wilkinson, who has no one capable of filling the same role as Chapman, Ferguson can call on a couple of experienced internationals to act as Gary Pallister's partner — either Mal Donaghy, the versatile Northern Irishman, or Parker, one of England's tightest markers.

Both have also played at full back, where the other choices include Clayton Blackmore, Mike Phelan, Lee Martin and even Lee Sharpe, who started his career at Old Trafford there. The absence of Bruce therefore should not be as consequential as that of Chapman, even if it is as extensive.

But United will miss his constructive contribution. With the exception, perhaps, of Mark Wright, of Liverpool and England, no other central defender is as adept at controlling the ball under pressure (in Bruce's case, invariably on the chest) and playing it calmly and deliberately to a colleague in space.

Bryan Robson was another to show signs of discomfort against Villa. In spite of aggravating his calf strain, he refused to be substituted and may be unavailable for the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Southampton on Monday.

Although United's competitive instincts will demand otherwise, defeat at The Dell would conveniently lighten their schedule.

The prospect is conceivable, even though Southampton are anchored to the bottom of the first division. They have competed in 11 cup ties so far this season and lost only once.



Back in the swing: Ian Botham warms up in the New Plymouth nets yesterday after joining the England cricketers in New Zealand. Report, page 34.

GRAHAM MORRIS

Short-term signings are ruled out

By RICHARD STREETON

DURHAM, Essex, Worcestershire and Yorkshire learned yesterday that they will not be allowed to sign short-term replacements for their Australian players if they are selected for a Test tour to Sri Lanka next August and September.

The Test and County Cricket Board's registration committee has rejected requests that special dispensation be granted if Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Tom Moody and Craig McDermott have to miss the final six weeks of the season.

By coincidence, several other counties will be without their overseas players at the end of the summer if the proposed short tour by South Africa to West Indies takes place in April.

Alan Donald, Warwickshire's South African fast bowler, and several West Indians, including Desmond Haynes (Middlesex), Malcolm Marshall (Hampshire) and Curly Ambrose (Northamptonshire) could all miss the early Benson and Hedges and Sunday league fixtures.

Under TCCB regulations, counties are restricted to one overseas player, who has to be released if selected for his country. The four Australians will have to leave England about August 1, though it

might be later if they are excused pre-tour training.

They will all miss about six county championship fixtures, four or five Sunday league games and, if they qualify, the NatWest Trophy semi-final and final.

Mike Gash, the Durham chief executive, epitomised a philosophical reaction from all four counties when he said: "It is disappointing, but the rules exist for the best. With international tours on the increase, this problem might often arise."

The TCCB has always been against short-term signings. Dennis Silk, the registration committee chairman, said that in a split-tour summer they could be inundated with requests for short-term signings and injuries could also lead to them.

"The whole thrust of our thinking, when possible, is to get more English players into our cricket," he said. "Counties can always blood a promising player who normally is kept out of the side."

Phil Robinson, the Yorkshire batsman who declined to sign a contract offered by the county, failed in a request to the committee to be reclassified as a "non-contester" registration.

Waugh's struggle, 24

Yorkshire reject Boycott honour

By MARTIN SEARCY

YORKSHIRE have refused to make Geoff Boycott their former opening batsman, an honorary life member alongside other luminaries such as Brian Close, Fred Trueman, Willie Watson, Vic Wilson, Ellis Robinson and Bob Appleyard.

Yesterday, Appleyard, a committee member for Bradford, said: "It took me 30 years to be given the honour, so there's plenty of time for Geoff. I would like to see him taking a more active role by accepting the offer to serve on the cricket committee which was made two years ago and remains open."

Boycott did not endorse

himself to a large number of Yorkshire's committee with some scathing remarks in a book last year. His comments clearly still rankle.

One member said yesterday: "Geoff is unlikely to take kindly to what he will see as a snub and is even less likely to serve on the cricket committee now."

Yorkshire hope there will not be a serious upheaval with membership and sponsorship enjoying a dramatic increase on the back of the county's first overseas signing, Craig McDermott, the Australian fast bowler.

Adelaide Test, page 34

Mansell may race without spare tyre

BY JOHN BLUNSDEN

NIGEL Mansell will return to England next week from his new home in Florida before beginning five days of testing for the Williams team in Portugal. Yesterday, Frank Williams said he was hoping to see a new, slimline Ron Dennis, for a start 80kg (12st 8lb) he was the heaviest of all the Formula One drivers last season.

"I would like to see him shed about five kilos," Williams said. "It's an attainable target and it would make him even quicker, fitter and, if you like, hungrier."

In Mansell's belief Riccardo Patrese and he has the strongest driving partnership in Formula One.

Although Mansell will continue to have priority use of the team's spare car, in all other respects they have equal status. The only rule for 1992

is that whoever has the better chance of the championship late in the season must be supported by his team-colleague, whichever way it goes.

For Williams, McLaren remains the biggest obstacle to the championship. "Ron Dennis has my deepest admiration and he thoroughly deserves his four double championships, but they are still beatable," he contended.

He also forecasts increasing opposition from other quarters. "In most respects, Ferrari are extremely well managed and can be a threat," he said. "Their main problem last year was building too conservative a car."

"And don't underestimate the power of Benetton's Ford V8 engine. Martin Brundle was very quick indeed over a full race distance in a recent test."

Saunders pays for Irish failure

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ROB Saunders, the scrum half who flashed like a meteor across Ireland's rugby skies during 1991, fell to earth yesterday. Saunders, the London Irishman who won ten successive caps last year and an eleventh against Wales last weekend, was one of three players dropped when the team to play England at Twickenham on February 1 was named.

Thus Ralph Keyes, saviour of a nation when he returned to international rugby so effectively during the World Cup, retains his place at stand-off half and Philip Matthews, whose leadership was called into question against the Welsh, retains the captaincy.

Saunders captained Ireland upon his debut against France less than a year ago, but he surrendered that to Matthews when Ireland toured Namibia during the summer. Now his place has gone too, though he put a brave face on it yesterday. "I knew there were going to be changes after a performance like that and they were bound

to look closely at my role," he said. "When things go wrong they must look at the mean in the decision-making positions and if you accept a decision-making job you must accept the consequences when things go badly."

After 52 caps, Lenihan, a Bristol Lion in 1983 and 1989, may not be seen on the international stage again. Aged 32, his been an

outstanding career, but he looked ineffective against the Welsh and Galway, aged 25 and the winner of four caps, will add zest to the pack.

Those named in the B team to play England, B at Richmond on January 31 will be aware of the possibility of promotion, should the senior side fail at Twickenham.

IRELAND: J. Stephen (London Irish); R. Keyes (London Irish); B. Mullin (Bath); C. Coughlin (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); S. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND B: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND C: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND D: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND E: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND F: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND G: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND H: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND I: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND J: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND K: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND L: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND M: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND N: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Leinster); P. Pogson (Ulster); D. Scott (Ulster); D. Fitzgerald (Leinster); D. Coughlin (Ulster); P. Matthews (London Irish); P. McManus (London Irish); P. French (Bleekend College); M. Fitzpatrick (Shenone); B. Robinson (Ballymena); R. Doherty (Ballymena); D. Lenihan (London Irish); T. Kingdon (Drogheda); G. Horgan (London Irish); N. McManus (London Irish).

IRELAND O: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi); R. Carty (Dungannon); M. Ridge (Blaenstock College); D. Corr (London Irish); S. Geoghegan (London Irish); R. Keays (Cork Constitution); P. Ahern (Lein